



Bishara says Arabs should be wary

RIYADH (AP) — The secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) headed Monday for the Middle East peace conference saying Arabs had to be wary but the hesitant should stay home. "This is a historic conference, a conference for decision-making and it has no place for half solutions and quasi positions... the hesitant better stay away," said GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara, a Kuwaiti diplomat. The GCC foreign ministers met Sunday to outline their position on all three planned stages of the talks, with the six states expected to join the final round. "Our demands are twofold, that U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 be implemented, and that a settlement be based on the principles of international legitimacy," he said. Bishara cautioned, "We expect to project different interpretations of the U.N. resolutions that would not be acceptable to the Arabs. 'I feel the Israeli concept is that 242 does not mean withdrawal and relations with the countries directly concerned, but it seeks regional co-existence through... a wide network of contacts and interests,' he said."

Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير حزبية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

EC to restate its position

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers Monday finalized what the EC should say at the Middle East peace conference but haggled over who it should send to the talks. The text to be read at the conference opening in Madrid on Wednesday solemnly restated EC policy to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, recalling the need for a solution to be based on a land-for-peace settlement which recognized Israel's right to secure frontiers. The 12 foreign ministers held a long discussion on how to share out the EC's 14 places in the conference room. "It was a completely ridiculous discussion about the allocation of chairs. It bordered on the absurd. As though we were actors in a play by Samuel Beckett," Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens told reporters. Finally, the ministers decided to ask the Soviet Union and the United States, which are co-sponsoring the conference, to give the community two seats at the conference table itself. Despite all the fuss over seats, the community is expected to play only a limited role in the conference, except in later plans which may emerge for economic cooperation with countries in the region.

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Bush: Madrid is first step

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush said Friday there is still a "long, long way to go" to achieve real peace in the Middle East. But he said the effort was worth it and the Madrid peace conference is an important first step.

"This is historic," Mr. Bush said several hours before he was to board Air Force One for the trip to Madrid to join Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in opening the conference, which begins Wednesday.

"I'm looking forward to this and I'm hoping that it will be a first step... in bringing peace to this part of the world that has suffered too long from war and conflict," Mr. Bush told a White House audience.

"I don't want to get peoples' hopes too high because there's a long, long way to go before we have the makings of or have agreement for peace in that troubled corner of the world," Mr. Bush said.

"But it's worth it, believe me it's worth it," he added, addressing a group of travel and tourism industry officials.

The president said that it was "only the United States, it is only our country, that can serve as this catalyst for peace."

Earlier, Secretary of State James Baker said the Bush administration is carefully following the law governing missile exports by Israel and other countries and will be evenhanded in the Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Baker's comments Sunday followed a newspaper report that Mr. Bush had waived sanctions against Israel for missile shipments to South Africa and a suggestion by Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens that the administration should favour Israel over its Arab neighbours.

The Washington Post reported in Sunday's editions that Mr. Bush notified Congress he would not invoke sanctions against Israel even though an Israeli government-allied firm had shipped missile components to the South African government-backed firm Armscor.

Legislation enacted by Congress last year calls for sanctions against foreign firms or nations that violate a 1987 international agreement on missile technology transfers.

The Post said the decision to waive the sanctions "was motivated in part by concern that punishing Israel would undermine its position" at the peace conference.

European support

Deputies from 29 European and Arab parliaments Monday expressed their support for the Madrid peace conference and said the meeting "will test the credibility of the new world order."

The legislator issued a joint statement after a three-day meeting of about 70 deputies in the Portuguese capital. The meeting was the first such exchange by Arab and European lawmakers since the Gulf war.

The statement said a just and lasting peace the region must imply a recognition of Palestinians' rights to form their own state and the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied territories.

The deputies also called for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the region, an international moratorium on arms sales and international control of nuclear installations.

Arab delegations attending the Lisbon meeting were from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine.

Belgium, Austria, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Britain were the European nations present.

Jordanian-Palestinian delegation carries olive branch to Spain

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein saw off the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and accompanying advisory committees as they left Amman Monday to Madrid to participate in the U.S.-Soviet-sponsored Middle East peace conference which opens on Wednesday.

As they boarded the Royal Jordanian (RJ) Tri-Star, every one of the 150-member group — members of the Palestinian and Jordanian teams, their media committees and members of the Jordanian and Palestinian press — were presented with olive branches by two young women dressed in the traditional Jordanian and Palestinian gowns.

King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Taher Masri, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, and Palestinian Ambassador Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim bade fare well to the delegation headed by Foreign Minister

Kamel Abu Jaber.

The Jordanian negotiating team is headed by Abdul Salam Majali and the Palestinian negotiators are headed by Haidar Abdul Shafi.

Before he boarded the plane, Dr. Abu Jaber described the Madrid conference as an historic event and said he was "cautiously optimistic." He warned that the road to peace in the region was long and exhausting.

"The negotiations will be very difficult because we are talking about basic issues that concern every person in the Arab Nation, especially our people here in Jordan and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Dr. Abu Jaber told the press.

The foreign minister vowed that the joint delegation would "place our issues on the table with all strength, clarity, honesty and decency."

Dr. Abu Jaber insisted that the joint delegation was not going to the conference to fight, but to make peace, adding that reasonable solutions could be reached if

Israel wanted to reach the same goal.

"Should the Israelis be in the mood to make peace, as we hope they are, I think reasonable men can reach reasonable solutions," he said.

Dr. Abu Jaber reassured that the two teams would present their issues with force and open-mindedness and that there was no intention of giving up any of their demands.

"We have no intention whatsoever on abandoning any of our rights," the foreign minister stressed.

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is expected to insist that in order to make peace with Israel, the Jewish state must comply with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call on Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967.

Dr. Abu Jaber commented on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's heading of his delegation, saying that it was Israel's (Continued on page 5)

2 settlers killed, 5 wounded in West Bank shooting ambush

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Jewish settlers were killed and five others were wounded Monday in a shooting ambush on a bus in the occupied West Bank, the military command said.

The attack occurred near Ariel, one of the largest West Bank Jewish settlements. It said those killed were the bus driver and a woman passenger standing next to him.

Israeli officials blamed Palestinian hardliners who oppose the upcoming Middle East peace conference in Madrid and vowed revenge.

Both hardline Arab and extremist Jewish groups have vowed to disrupt the peace forum.

Palestinian hardliners are afraid that Arab moderates will accept peace with Israel and lose the opportunity for forming an independent Palestinian state.

The attack occurred at 6:15 p.m. (1700 GMT) at Tappanah Junction, about 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem and about eight kilometres from Ariel.

"There are two dead and five injured," said a spokeswoman for the

Israeli army, which controls the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Soldiers fired flares over the area as they searched more than an hour after the 6:30 p.m. (1630 GMT) attack.

Israel Radio said the bus, ambushed near the settlement of Sela north of Jerusalem, had been carrying the settlers to a rally in Tel Aviv called to oppose any Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The wounded were taken to hospital by helicopter and ambulance. Israel Radio said rescue workers attempted to resuscitate victims.

A Reuters reporter trying to reach the scene of the attack said soldiers had blocked the road but he could see large numbers of troops and secret police.

"The shooting is likely to boost Israeli right-wing opposition to the conference and back its demands that Israel should not negotiate with the Palestinians close to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

It might also be used by Israel at the conference as an example of "security" concerns the Jewish state

has to face.

Settlers reacted angrily to the attack and urged the government to expel activities of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas which has called for armed attacks on Jewish settlements.

Israeli military censors, who normally delay publication for long periods to allow contacting relatives, gave almost immediate clearance of the report.

The news was broadcast on Israeli Radio stations as thousands of settlers converged on Tel Aviv for a demonstration in support of hardline positions at the Madrid peace talks.

Crowds poured into the square where Israeli advocates of a land-for-peace deal demonstrated Saturday, waving signs opposing any withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Peace for peace, you don't sell your mother," said one slogan, which had been repeated in advertisements in Israeli newspapers calling for the mass rally.

Other posters said "Peace with Jordan, on the Jordan River," "The conference is a disaster."

Gorbachev sees 'glimmer of hope' in Middle East

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said in an interview released Monday that the convening of a Middle East peace conference may represent a "glimmer of hope" for the region.

He said the conference opening in Madrid Wednesday should find a just settlement of Palestinian problems while respecting the rights and security of both Arabs and Israelis.

"We proceed from the position that the conference participants will rest upon the principles of international legitimacy, and this means the equality of the rights and security of all states and peoples — both of the Arabs and of Israel," he told the Arabic newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat.

"Without a doubt, a just and stable solution of the Palestinian problems should be found," said Mr. Gorbachev, who left Moscow for Madrid Monday evening.

Extracts from the interview were quoted by the Soviet news agency TASS.

The United States and the Soviet Union are co-sponsors of the Madrid conference between Israel and the Arabs.

"Let us hope that a glimmer of hope has been sighted in the tortuous history of the Middle East," the Soviet leader said.

"It goes without saying that the complex territorial and other problems, the contradictions which have piled up over the years and the accumulated mistrust and suspicion continue to divide the participants in the Middle East conflict."

"But today we may state that

we have achieved the first success. The main thing we see is that the first step towards one another has been made, and that there is agreement to jointly seek solutions."

Mr. Gorbachev said the negotiating process would create a "qualitatively new atmosphere" in the region but it would be rash to predict the outcome in advance.

"Ahead of us lies much painstaking work which — of this we are certain — will also require bold political solutions and shrewd diplomatic skills," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev said his country will try to ensure that the peace conference does not embitter either side.

Mr. Gorbachev urged "courageous decisions... and deft diplomacy" at the conference.

"The Soviet Union, as co-chairman of the conference, bears the responsibility of ensuring that the outcome of the peace process has no bitter taste for any party," Mr. Gorbachev said.

Mr. Gorbachev described as hopeful signs that "each of the parties was taken the first step towards the other, and there is also agreement on the necessity of working together for a solution."

He cautioned that it was unwise to talk of guaranteed success from the conference, saying future work would be needed.

"We are certain that will require the adoption of courageous political decisions and the exercise of highly sensitive deft diplomacy," he said.

Violence aborts Amman rally

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Opponents and proponents of the Madrid peace conference clashed on Monday night, aborting a public rally organised by Islamic and Nationalistic movements to voice their opposition to the peace parity.

The rally, held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman, was organised by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Al Tahrir Islamic Party, the Arab Baath Party, the Jordanian Revolutionary Party, and the Jordan National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) as well as several parliamentarians.

The rally started at 6 p.m. with a Koran recital. As the recital continued a number of youths stood up and started chanting pro-peace slogans. Opponents of the U.S.-led peace process countered with shouts of "Allahu Akbar." Eyewitnesses said some youths jumped toward the podium where a number of organisers, mainly parliamentarians, were sitting and yanked the microphone.

An eyewitness who refused to be identified said some others stood up and started throwing chairs at the windows of the

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein bids farewell to Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, head of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, and Dr. Hassan Ashrawi, member of a steering committee, upon the delegation's departure for the Spanish capital Monday (Petra photo)



His Majesty King Hussein bids farewell to Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, head of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, and Dr. Hassan Ashrawi, member of a steering committee, upon the delegation's departure for the Spanish capital Monday (Petra photo)

Shamir rejects Labour call for settlement freeze

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Leaders of the opposition Labour Party on Monday echoed Arab demands for a freeze on new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said no, arguing it would "weaken our position in negotiations."

Israel also raised new objections to procedures at the Middle East peace conference opening Wednesday, saying the Palestinians were being allotted too much time to state their position.

In a 45-minute meeting with the Labour Party in his office, Mr. Shamir asked its support for Israel's stance in the Madrid conference.

The Labour leaders, headed by party chairman Shimon Peres, pledged to withhold criticism as long as peace talks continued, a statement from Mr. Shamir's office said.

Mr. Peres also said on Israel Radio that Labour had asked for a suspension in building Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Exchange, Mr. Peres said, the Palestinians should end to their nearly four-year uprising in the occupied territories and Arab states should halt their longstanding economic boycott of Israel.

"It would definitely not be a bad package," Mr. Peres said. Palestinians have threatened to refuse bilateral talks with Israel unless settlement activity is stopped. Other Arab countries taking part, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt, have supported this demand.

Mr. Shamir, whose right-wing Likud bloc objects to relinquishing land to the Arabs, turned down the appeal, as he has previous pleas from President George Bush.

"We cannot accept preconditions to the opening of negotiations," Mr. Shamir said, according to his office's statement.

"The moment you announce a freeze or a halt you weaken our position in negotiations."

He later met members of the Israeli delegation for consultations at his office. They are scheduled to fly to Madrid Tuesday morning, the radio said.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the most outspoken critic of the Madrid conference, told reporters that Israel must not back off its position, "even if this is only a formal issue, because negotiations with the (Palestine Liberation Organisation) PLO, even more so indirect."

Transport Minister Moshe Katav said he was "full of hope" for the conference, but said "American pressure will achieve the opposite effect from that the

Americans intend."

"We will be more ready to take risks if we know that we are getting fair and honest treatment without pressure. If we are pressured we will be influenced to take a more inflexible stand," Mr. Katav warned.

"It is better that the United States take the part of an honest broker, without pressuring Israel, then we can be more open to proposals... and the Arab states, I believe will be more moderate," Mr. Katav said.

Also Sunday, Israeli settlers began to voice concern for their future.

Zeev Shor, head of the Jordan Valley regional council, told army radio he called on Mr. Shamir "to be steadfast in Madrid on a position for peace, that the conference, and this is what is important, a continued Israeli hold in the Golan."

Arafat: Palestinians will not give up Jerusalem claim

PARIS (Agencies) — Palestinians will never give up their claims on Arab East Jerusalem, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in an interview published Monday.

"Everyone, even the United States, recognises that Jerusalem is among the territories (Israel) occupied in 1967, which must be evacuated. Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine... it is a question of international law," Mr. Arafat told the daily Le Figaro.

But Mr. Arafat said the PLO recognised that Jerusalem also interested the Jews. "We do not want to build a new Berlin wall in the middle of Jerusalem."

Mr. Arafat will not be among delegates attending the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, this week because Israel refuses to negotiate with the PLO.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who will lead Israel's delegation, told American television on Sunday: "If anybody will come and say he is nominated by the PLO, that he is getting instruction from the PLO, we will not sit with him."

But Mr. Arafat reiterated to the French daily a statement that the organisation would nonetheless be represented at the talks, as every Palestinian belonged to the PLO.

In another interview, Mr. Arafat called for the dismantlement of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories if Israel withdraws from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with Radio France Internationale (RFI), Mr. Arafat was asked what would happen to Jews who have settled in the occupied territories.

"Is it their land?" Mr. Arafat responded. "International law and the U.N. resolutions say that the colonies are illegal and rest illegal in fact. The Jewish settlements in the Sinai were destroyed during the Israeli retreat of this territory."

Mr. Arafat told RFI that the conference also would have to address what damages should be received by Palestinians expelled from their homes by the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

Syrians are upbeat over Mideast peace parley

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrians appeared hopeful Monday that the Middle East peace conference would prove successful through international pressure on Israel.

The previous evening, the country was glued to its television sets while the hour-long interview President Hafez Al Assad gave to a U.S. television network was broadcast. The radio and newspapers also ran the interview.

The thrust of Mr. Assad's stand was that there can be no peace unless Israel abides by U.S. Security Council Resolution 242 and withdraws from the occupied Arab territories.

It has long been the Syrian stand that without the return of the Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in the 1967 war, it will never make peace. But for the first time the Syrians felt that the United States and the Soviet Union, in pushing for the conference, might work to implement the land for peace exchange.

"After going to war earlier this year to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait on the basis of Security Council resolutions, America and the Soviet Union cannot be seen to be adopting double standards now," said businessman Saeb Nabhan.

Israel contends that it complied with the resolution by heading the Sinai back to Egypt after the separate 1979 peace treaty, that it needs the rest of the occupied territories to feel "secure."

The government newspaper Tishrin stressed this in an editorial Monday. "Israel is trying to torpedo the conference by sticking to its intransigent stand — this means it will place itself in direct confrontation with the world in general and the United States and the Soviet Union in particular," Tishrin said.

Syrians feel they have a strong case as a result of Mr. Assad's decision last year to join the U.S.-led coalition that went to war to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

On the street, there is a sense that it is time to end the war, to stop mortgaging Syria's economy to the purchase of weapons. Syrians are much more likely to mouth the word compromise than anyone in the government.

In Cairo, Egypt's top diplomat said Monday bilateral negotiations at the Middle East peace conference will begin next weekend in Madrid, and the parties then will decide whether to move them.

ESCWA highlights Jordan's problems in coping with influx of Gulf returnees

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fallout of the Gulf crisis has created a humanitarian and economic crisis no less tragic than a natural disaster or war in Jordan, and the Kingdom stands in urgent need of not only short-term financial assistance but also substantial technical help to enable it to plan its long-term objectives, according to a study carried out by a United Nations agency.

The study, conducted by the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), corroborates the findings of the Ministry of Planning and affirms that the Kingdom's resources are inadequate to help it tackle the adverse effects of the sudden influx of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait, in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

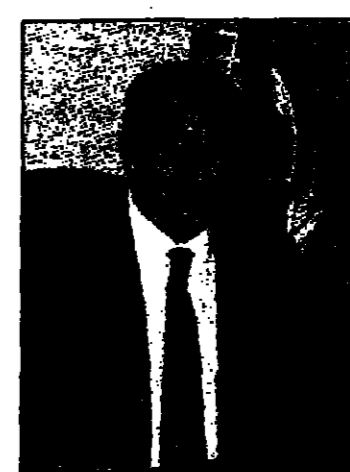
"Jordan needs help in various forms, such as grants and

soft loans, extension of grace periods, debt rescheduling as well as some debt forgiveness," says the study, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times.

"For a country already confronted with a huge financial burden imposed by the influx of returnees, external aid is urgently needed to prevent potentially very negative socio-economic developments," adds the study, entitled "The return of Jordanian/Palestinian nationals from Kuwait: Economic and social implications for Jordan."

The study's estimates of Jordan's financial needs differ slightly from figures arrived at by the Ministry of Planning in a report released in September.

According to ESCWA, Jordan needs a total of \$3.141 billion at a rate of \$1.047 billion every year between 1992 and 1994 for absorbing the returnees, estimated to total 300,000 by the end of this year.



Tayseer Abdul Jabbar

The figure includes \$346 million to create jobs, \$382 million for housing, \$45 million for education, \$145 million for health services and \$145 million for other services such as electricity, telecommunications, civil defence, public security, municipal and other

social facilities. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, regional director-general of ESCWA in Amman, explained the approach taken by the commission by pointing out that the amounts cited for creating jobs cover only 60 per cent of the unemployed by the year 1994.

The Ministry of Planning report said that Jordan needed \$4.5 billion in the next five years to absorb the addition to the population through creating jobs and setting up infrastructure.

Also, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said, some of the figures cited by the Ministry of Planning included "the import components needed to create jobs in addition to the general investment which already took into account the import needs."

ESCWA estimates that over and above the actual financial

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Jordanians sceptical of peace parley

By Jamal Halaby
Associated Press

AMMAN — Most Jordanians view Wednesday's Arab-Israeli peace conference as something of a shotgun wedding. But they're determined to make the best of it, even if many hold out little hope of a lasting Middle East settlement.

Jordan had little option but to tag along with the U.S. peace initiative given the Kingdom's political stand during the Gulf crisis and the economic battering that it brought in its wake.

Even some leaders of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, the country's most vociferous opponent of negotiating with Israel and its most powerful political party, agree with that.

"Economic problems and security threats would have increased for Jordan if it had not agreed to participate in the talks," said Ahmad Quteish Azzayeh, spokesman for the Brotherhood's 22-member Parliamentary bloc.

His Majesty King Hussein himself cited the deteriorating economy, coupled with mounting unemployment and dwindling domestic resources, as one of the key reasons for Jordanian participation in the peace process.

"Jordan is practically under siege," the King told a recent gathering of 2,500 Jordanian notables. "Jordan has both unemployment and hunger."

The Palestinians, diplomatically alienated for the same reasons as Jordan, also had no choice but to drop their demand for their own delegation and agree to attend the talks in a joint team with the Jordanians.

In Amman's fashionable neighbourhoods and the squalid slums and refugee camps in the capital's suburbs, the conference is on everyone's lips — particularly what could transpire if negotiations between the Kingdom and Israel actually take place.

The Kingdom's 3.2 million people, half of them Palestinians, appear to be evenly split on whether Israel's uncompromising terms will be imposed on the Arabs by American blessing or whether the Arabs stand a chance of realistic negotiations with the Jewish state.

"What do we have to lose by sitting down and discussing peace with Israel?" asked electrician Ibrahim Hababneh as he sipped coffee in a crowded downtown Amman cafe.

"We have a very just cause and we can always just get up and walk out if the Israelis don't give us anything."

Such brave talk exposes the real fears of many who feel that there's little chance of Israel giving up any part of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights — all territories it captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

"There's no way Israel would agree to return all territories, least of all Jerusalem," said Muhammad Khalili, a native of Hebron in the West Bank, who fled to Jordan in 1967 and lives in Amman.

"But then how long can we afford to continue like this? It's only a matter of time before Israel gobbles up all the land and tells the Arabs to go to hell," said Mr. Khalili, an engineer.

Although Jordan will not seek to reclaim the West Bank at the Madrid talks, it has a hefty interest in seeing the Palestinians achieve self-determination.

Israeli hardliners argue that Jordan, already home to 1.7 million Palestinians, should become the Palestinian homeland.

Many say that the only way the Israelis will make any concessions on the occupied territories and halting the construction of Jewish settlements there is if the Americans lean on them.

The belief that, after decades of unsustained support for Israel, the Americans are now prepared to twist Israel's arm has gained currency in recent days.

Its adherents cite the Bush administration's delay in having Congress consider Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to absorb the current flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Jordanian hardliners believe that the Jewish state is only interested in normalising relations with the Arabs without surrendering the occupied land which many Israelis consider vital to their security.

"Peace talks with Israel are nonsense since it doesn't want a settlement based on exchanging land for peace," argued Ahmad Owaidi Abbadi, a tribal leader and member of the 80-man Lower House of Parliament.

"The conference will only lead Jordan to a catastrophe," he said. "If the conference fails, which it will, I predict extremism and instability in Jordan."



Queen praises ADC for efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday addressed the 1991 Annual American-Arab Anti-discrimination fund-raising banquet in Los Angeles, which was attended by more than 750 people.

Also present were A.D.C. Chairman Senator James Abourezk and A.D.C. National President Albert Mokhiber.

In her address, Queen Noor praised A.D.C.'s "struggle since 1980 against stereotyping, discrimination and ethnic or religious oppression" which has "responded to the real needs and hopes of Arab-Americans."

The Queen described to the predominantly Arab-American audience the recent changes that are taking place in the Arab World in general and in Jordan in particular, and the democratisation process that has occurred in Jordan and other Arab countries.

"We seek nothing less than an Arab renaissance," the Queen said. "The next phase will encompass more coherent, consistent and constructive relations among the Arab countries and a rethinking of our sometimes strained ties with the major western powers."

The Queen underlined the need for Arab-Americans to respond to the new challenges facing the Arab World and their contribution to promoting a better understanding between the Arab and American peoples.

"You can help us to build a truly new Arab order, and to generate more positive ties between the Arab World and the West. If you value the emerging Arab democratic transformation, you must strengthen this process by your recognition and appreciation, by speaking of it in this country and elsewhere in the West. Your help is also vital for the success of current efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict," she said.

At the same event, Norma Odeh, widow of martyr Alex Odeh, presented to former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark the Alex Odeh Humanitarian Award for his unrelenting efforts in the area of human rights.

Queen Noor paid tribute to Mr. Clark's efforts to "convey to the American people the intense human suffering and destruction of modern technological warfare."

Mohammad's Army trial resumes; prosecution begins presenting evidence

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The State Security Court in Marka resumed its sessions Monday when it heard Prosecutor General Major Muhammad Hijazi read out statements given by the 18 defendants.

Without naming the defendants who gave the statements, the prosecutor general said that the group, all affiliated to the so-called "Mohammad's Army," had been trying to acquire a 106-calibre mortar to carry out their terrorist operations.

Only four lawyers out of 15 showed up at the court.

The various illegal actions committed by Mohammad's Army members were listed as follows:

- conspiring to bring about a change in the country's constitution by illegitimate means;
- acquisition of explosives and handgrenades to blow up various institutions;
- acquisition of automatic weapons to be used in assassinations of various personalities;
- committing terrorist actions by blowing up cars, etc.;
- affiliation to a banned group

(Mohammad's Army); and — collection of donations for this organisation.

The prosecutor general explained that the group started organising its members as far back as 1978 when they also maintained relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood group.

Dr. Abdullah Azzam, who had fought in Afghanistan in 1986, returned to Jordan in 1988 and recruited Samih Abu Zeidan, one of Mohammad's Army members with whom he agreed on arrangements for setting up the clandestine group in Jordan, according to the prosecutor general.

He said that Mr. Abu Zeidan embarked on his criminal actions in 1988 when he started collecting donations and recruiting members for his army. He added that the members had received training in the use of weapons and were conducting shooting exercises near Wadi Seer, Karak and other remote areas.

The prosecutor general told the court that group members were trained in the manufacture of explosives employing local materials.

One of the accused, Fuad Daneh, has admitted to sur-

viving an army barracks near the Al Hussein Medical City prior to storming it to steal weapons while another, Habes Sandouqa, was given orders to attack a bookkeeper of a supermarket near the Fifth Circle.

According to the prosecutor general, some members of Mohammad's Army actually fired automatic weapons at the British Bank of Al Whidat District and later escaped in a car. He said that the accused, Mohammad Dajani, attacked and burnt a restaurant near the Eighth Circle and that Fuad Daneh had planted an explosive charge under the car of a church minister at the Gandawil District.

Another defendant, Mohammad Khalifeh, had opened fire from his automatic gun on a liquor store in Amman.

Before adjourning the session until next Monday, Court Judge Yousef Fawzi demanded that the accused provide fresh statements about their actions and he also ordered that the court be supplied with medical reports and the corner's report about the victims in these actions.

Local journalists decry their exclusion from covering Madrid peace conference

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the historic Middle East peace conference scheduled to open in Madrid Wednesday draws nearer, many Jordanian journalists who have extensively covered negotiations leading up to the purely find themselves tossed out in the cold and deprived of a ringside seat.

Only the chief editors of the four daily newspapers in Jordan Al Rai, Sawt Al Shaab, Al Dustour and the Jordan Times have been named to cover the peace conference, one exception is Al Dustour, which has assigned a reporter to accompany its editor in chief to the conference.

"Every newspaper reserves the right to send who ever it decides to cover the conference," said Hashem Khreisat, the editor-in-chief of Sawt Al Shaab. "But the expenses to send more than one reporter are tremendous and could reach up to \$500 per person, per day, and local newspapers cannot afford to pay that amount."

On the other hand, Rami Khouri, a political commentator and a well-known local journalist, said that the cost question is an unconvincing excuse and can be overcome in many ways, such as pool reporting.

"Perhaps there are other reasons that are not known to us, but in any case it seems peculiar not to send reporters

to cover the biggest news story in the region since 1947," Mr. Khouri said.

Mr. Khreisat, who is also president of the Jordan Press Association, said that "it seems the arrangements are linked to Spain's policies regarding the conference which will witness a vast flood of journalists. For this reason, the number of journalists to cover the conference from each country has been restricted."

But an official from the Spanish embassy in Jordan told the Jordan Times that his government had not put such restrictions on news organisations. He added that the only requirements for journalists wishing to cover the conference are a visa and a letter of attestation from their respective news establishments as well as a copy of their journalistic card.

The Jordanian government is paying the expenses of representatives from its news agencies — Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and the Jordan News Agency, Petra, — as well as one-way plane tickets for all Jordanian media representatives that are going to cover the conference in Madrid, Foreign Ministry sources told the Jordan Times.

The cost of sending representatives to Madrid has especially affected small local papers such as English-language weekly The Star, and the Arabic tabloid Shahan, which will not dispatch any of their reporters.

ters. "We will not send anybody from this paper because of financial reasons," said Osama El Sharif, editor-in-chief of The Star. He added that he believed previous arrangements should have been made between the local newspapers and the government in order to send a number of reporters to cover the conference.

"We can only help and facilitate matters for the local press," said Information Minister Mahmoud El Sharif. "The print media organisations are owned by private companies and they are in charge of their own affairs, we cannot sabotage the authority of the management or interfere and tell them what to do."

The minister added that he would have liked to see a larger number of local reporters cover the event but his ministry did not have the adequate budget to help pay the expenses of additional reporters who are not affiliated with a government-run media organisation.

Caroline Faraj, a local reporter with the Arabic daily Al Rai, has been covering the negotiations leading up to the conference, including the eight visits by American Secretary of State James Baker to the region. Miss Faraj said she felt that the decision to exclude local reporters from going to Madrid was unfair.

"I think it's time for the local reporters in this conference to be senders rather than receivers," Miss Faraj said.

She explained that local reporters, as well as their respective newspapers, are accustomed to receiving information from foreign news agencies, such as Reuters, the Associated Press, United Press International and Agence France Presse, regarding events affecting this region. That is why she said she felt that this opportunity should be granted to veteran reporters who have covered the region extensively, so that they can cover this conference "using their own judgements and experiences."

Yet Mahmoud Al Kayed, the editor-in-chief of Al Rai, maintained that the decision of the local papers to send only the editors to cover the conference was sound.

"This is our general policy and I think that sending the editors to cover this important event is enough," Mr. Al Kayed said.

According to independent sources, 35 Palestinian reporters departed from Amman yesterday accompanying the Palestinian delegation to the conference; a number of other Palestinian reporters will also join them from different countries around the world.

The sources also said that the Spanish capital would be hosting an army of international media representatives, totalling around 4,500 reporters, who will be assigned to cover the opening ceremony only.

At the same event, Norma Odeh, widow of martyr Alex Odeh, presented to former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark the Alex Odeh Humanitarian Award for his unrelenting efforts in the area of human rights.

Queen Noor paid tribute to Mr. Clark's efforts to "convey to the American people the intense human suffering and destruction of modern technological warfare."

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Amman Chamber of Industry calls for plan to clean up waste

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry Monday called on Jordanian industries to try to benefit from the industrialised world's experiences in the treatment of industrial waste and protection of the environment.

The call was made by the chamber's director general Dr. Mohammad Salameh Al Halaiqah, during a symposium on industrial environment attended by representatives of the industrial sector in the Kingdom. Two foreign experts in industrial environment from the World Environment Centre based in New York delivered lectures at the symposium, supporting Mr. Halaiqah's views.

At present, the Chamber of Industry is preparing a comprehensive industrial survey covering industrial businesses and is trying to set up a formula designed to help factories dispose of industrial waste in a manner that would not harm the environment.

The two experts said that it was encouraging to see a great number of Jordanian industrial businesses responding favourably to the requirements of protecting the environment.

Mr. Halaiqah also said that Jordanian industrial firms have taken measures to help protect water resources in the Kingdom and the Chamber of Industry was willing to cooperate with them to pursue such efforts and to also build bridges of cooperation with regional and international organisations.

Participants in the symposium discussed problems encountered in the industrial sector means of disposing of industrial waste and cooperation with international organisations to protect the environment in Jordan.

Role, contributions and restrictions on Arab women discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day seminar on population education and the role of Arab women went into a second day of discussions Monday with delegates from 14 Arab states reviewing eight working papers dealing with topics ranging from women activities to the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab World.

One of the working papers was presented by Rafika Hammond from Bahrain University in which she reviewed the level and type of education offered to Bahraini women. The paper proposed stricter measures to be imposed by the concerned authorities in the Arab World to help eradicate illiteracy.

Nimet Sabalash, from the University of Jordan, submitted a working paper dealing with Jordanian women's pursuit of higher education and their contribution to the labour market.

Lina Matar, from Lebanon, presented a working paper, tackling the population situation in her country, the educational system and the role of women in economic and social fields. Mrs. Matar recommended that a general census be held to determine the exact size of population, their level of education and the their future needs.

Dr. Shafa Bafieh, from Yemen, submitted a paper on Yemeni women and their early marriages. Her paper also featured the low income of rural families and the limited opportunities for employment of women in her country.

A Syrian paper submitted to the meeting dealt with the wrong conception of marrying off

women at an early age especially in the rural region. The paper, submitted by Ghada Al Gabi, suggested further efforts be exerted to eradicate illiteracy among women and more attention be given to projects involving females.

There were other papers from the Libyan, Iraqi and Moroccan delegates, all of them women. The papers mainly focused on education for women, the role of information and the media in promoting the status of women and their incorporation in society, science, education at schools and other related topics.

The regional office of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) organised the symposium in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

ing children to overcome their predicaments. He said the conference will conduct a comprehensive review of all types of disabilities in Jordan as well as means of dealing with them through rehabilitation programmes.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, who is expected to attend the meetings, told a press conference last week that the Jordanian side will submit 50 per cent of the studies and research papers and will discuss with their Swedish colleagues means of dealing with rehabilitation plans for the future.

The three-day conference, he said, will review working papers dealing with complications and problems resulting in disabilities and means of help-

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Conference to address plight of handicapped in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Swedish medical conference on the rehabilitation of handicapped children will open at the University of Jordan today and delegates from Sweden and Jordan as well as from the World Health Organisation (WHO) will review a number of working papers on disability and rehabilitation, according to Dr. Mohammad Khatib, deputy dean of the university's Faculty of Medicine.

The three-day conference, he said, will review working papers dealing with complications and problems resulting in disabilities and means of help-

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Japan donates JD 237,000 to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has donated a set of equipment for language education worth \$346,000 (JD 237,000) to the Language Center of the University of Jordan through its cultural grant aid programme. The equipment includes language laboratory unit, audio visual equipment and others to contribute to the promotion of language education, including the opening of Japanese language study course at the University of Jordan. Notes to this effect were exchanged at the Ministry of Planning Monday between Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and Ambassador of Japan to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama. Japan has so far provided Jordan with a number of equipment worth over \$2.8 million (JD 1.9 million) in cultural aid.



Jordan Anti-smoking Society President Zuhair Malhas speaks at a special ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre marking the 10th anniversary of the society (Petra photo)

On anniversary, Jordan Anti-smoking Society calls for measures to protect public health

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Anti-smoking Society Monday has called on the Health Ministry and other concerned authorities to put into practice national programmes designed to combat smoking.

The society president, Dr. Zuhair Malhas, stressed the link between smoking and diseases resulting from smoking and demanded that a national programme to fight smoking be carried out so as to stem the spread of the habit.

Dr. Malhas, a former health minister, was speaking at a special ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre Monday marking the society's 10th anniversary. The ceremony was attended by representatives of various organisations and an audience of invited guests.

Dr. Malhas told the audience

that the society was seeking, through a number of programmes, to stem the spread of smoking, especially through the media.

But Dr. Malhas complained that the continued planting of tobacco in Jordan remains one of the biggest stumbling blocks in the society's path.

According to the society's president, 70 per cent of Jordanian adults smoke. There is a need to reduce this number in view of Jordan's requirements to have more food produced for the growing population, he said.

The society has organised a series of seminars and carried out activities designed to combat smoking. In 1988, the Health Ministry banned smoking in all cinemas, theatres, libraries, public transport vehicles and other areas in enforcement of a 1977

law.

Addressing the meeting at Monday's ceremony was Dr. Saad Hijazi, vice president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology who outlined the role of universities in combating smoking. Dr. Hijazi complained that smoking was spreading fast among university students.

The dangers of smoking were reviewed by Dr. Fuad Kilani, society member who also outlined the society's role in spreading awareness among the public about the dangers to public health.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Dr. Malhas distributed awards and honorary certificates to a number of citizens who had quit smoking and to a number of organisations which have contributed to anti-smoking campaigns.

Zarqa residents set up committee to help expatriates

ZARQA (Petra) — Expatriates living in Zarqa have set up an investment committee to help guide expatriate investors to utilise their capital in small and medium-sized projects to earn them a steady income.

The announcement was made by a special committee in charge of the expatriate affairs during a meeting held in the presence of the Zarqa governor and local officials.

In reviewing the expatriates' affairs and the damage they sustained as a result of the Gulf conflict, Committee Chairman Muhammad Milhem presented ideas to solve the expatriates' problems and voiced his appreciation of the government's support for his group.

Nayef Abbas, a member of the committee, said that most of the

returnees are now unemployed, but could find work when small-sized projects have been implemented. Mr. Abbas suggested setting up a complex where craftsmen could work and produce items for the market to earn them a living.

Mr. Abbas suggested the creation of a share-holding company to own and operate buses along internal routes and small-size restaurants and hotels and car maintenance workshops for the expatriates to operate. He said that the committee was looking for government support through the enactment of laws that can pave the ground for expatriates to regain their rights in Kuwait and other countries.

Several Parliament members and the Zarqa mayor were among those attending the committee meeting.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sina Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ghassan Abu Laban, Hadil Nassam, Abir Abu Judeh and Samia Hindi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Australian artist Jennifer Bowker at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ A special season of antique lithographs, engravings, illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Mideast as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times

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Recipe for trouble

FROM HIS point of view, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker could be right to see no linkage between Arab-Israeli negotiations and Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. "If we can make progress towards peace on any front we'd like to see it, without holding that possible progress hostage for a complete and comprehensive solution," Mr. Baker was quoted as saying on Saturday.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was of the same opinion. But Mr. Kissinger's remarks were more indicative. He said: "If the (U.S.) administration achieves a series of one or two limited agreements it will have served the country and the peace of the world very well."

We completely disagree with Mr. Kissinger. We by now know that what the former secretary said is the aim of the Israeli side. Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc had made clear that they badly want peace agreements with their Arab neighbours, but without conceding any land, especially Palestinian territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israelis would very dearly run after separate treaties with every state in the region but excluding the Palestinians, leaving the core issue without solution, and thus prolonging the agony of the Palestinians and annexing what remains of Palestine. This is very dangerous, especially for Jordan where a great percentage of the Palestinians lives. Arabs, particularly Jordan, realise this. This is why the most important decision taken in last week's Damascus Arab foreign ministers meeting emphasised the importance of the conference reaching solutions for all Arab-Israeli conflicts. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad also made this clear in his interview with CNN television. The Syrian leader said there would be great danger in solving some of the conflicts and leaving others to brew and explode in the future. The Arabs seek a just and comprehensive solution to all the region's standing problems, on top of which is the Arab/Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Anything short of that will be a prescription for future troubles.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Monday expressed the view that the Madrid parity represents a testing ground for the U.S. administration and its real intentions and an arena where President Bush comes face to face with Mr. Shamir and his adamant stand vis-a-vis peace with the Arabs. The paper said that when the peace conference begins Wednesday the whole world community should side with justice and support the Arab rights by exposing the injustice and the intransigent position of the Israeli prime minister and his government. The Madrid parity is not a matter of concern to the Arabs alone, it is rather a ground for Israel to show whether it is inclined to pursue peace efforts and respect the international legitimacy, the paper added. But it should be noted that the credibility of the United States would be jeopardised worldwide if it allows the Israelis to continue their defiance of the world community and at the same time continue to enjoy backing from America, the paper said. It said that by going to Madrid at the head of the Israeli delegation, Mr. Shamir has posed a challenge to President Bush and to the whole world community, and it is up to them to see that he abides by the rules and principles of international legitimacy, the paper added. Should the Madrid conference fail to achieve fruitful results, the responsibility will be placed squarely on the United States which holds the power over Israel and its destiny, the paper stressed. The paper also said that President Bush, who is still waging war on the Iraqi children and women by starving them, should prove his credibility as a protector of the international legitimacy for which he launched the war against Iraq.

Al Dustour daily echoed King Hussein's statement to the American television network CNN by saying that Jordan is going to the peace conference not for the sake of participating in the talks, but for the achievement of a just and durable peace. What Jordan needs, the paper said, is a permanent and sustainable peace that can be accepted by the future generations and can be defended by all parties to the present conflict. Jordan will join hands with the other parties in the peace-making process if the aim is to implement U.N. resolutions that safeguard the interests of all people of the region, the paper stressed. The chronic Palestine problem lies at the heart of the conflict and has been the cause for so many tragedies for all the peoples of the Middle East; therefore, Jordan will be directing its attention and that of other parties towards a just settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli issue the paper pointed out. It said that the present opportunity should not be missed because any failure could mean pushing the region into a dark tunnel with unpredictable consequences for the coming generations. In order for the peace conference to succeed, the paper concluded, Israel must be made to freeze the settlements and should announce its readiness to implement the Security Council resolutions that guarantee the exchange of land for peace.

The View from Fourth Circle

Madrid and beyond: 1920, once again

AS the people of our region prepare to embark on a historic new era that might see the Middle East enjoy justice, peace and stability, we should ask whether the Madrid peace talks are a step into the future or a flashback to the early days of this century. It is extraordinary how many parallels there are today between contemporary events and forces in the Middle East and the situation around the period 1915-1925. The fact is, the people of this region, and the interested superpowers, are still grappling with the most fundamental issues of national identity, political rights, the demarcation of states, and transnational commercial interests — issues that have not been resolved in this area for this entire century.

Is it a wonder, therefore, that we should be angry with the Western powers? If the United States and Great Britain were dealing today with the same issues that confronted them three-quarters of a century ago, wouldn't they be angry as well? Of course they would, but the junk morality and crass arrogance of white guys from the north leaves little room for cross-cultural understanding. They are so enchanted with their power lawn mowers, electric popcorn machines, and portable telephones that they have lost sight of the forces that drive nations, and determine history. In their supreme bumptiousness, they seriously discuss notions such as "the end of history," as if they were above it all, or had won. Yet, the last 70 years show that their understanding of history is only as deep as the political perceptions of those in the West whose lives revolve around television soap operas. They are either crass and inveterate liars, or naive fools, or a combination of the two. How else can we explain the fact that despite all their moral pontifications, the world still seeks means of bringing peace, justice and stability to the Middle East?

Look at the Middle East today, on the eve of the Madrid peace conference, and you look at history arrested, rights denied, identity convoluted, and people still struggling for their most elementary rights. The parallels with the early decades of this century are eerie.

1. The system of protectorates that saw the Gulf sheikhdoms fall under the tutelage of the British Navy and the imperial office in the late 19th Century has been revived in its modern, high-tech, low-mortality form. Kuwait has already turned itself into the first of several neo-protectorates in the Gulf region. Bahrain, having already served as a military service post for the United States, is looking to sign similar deals. Djibouti, a French military base in the not-so-clever disguise of a sovereign Arab state, has long played the same role for France.

Egypt, for the last decade, has played a slightly different version of the same game of national submission, seeking to play the role of the regional sheriff's deputy for the United States in the 1980s and 1990s, as Iran sought to do in the 1970s. Others in the region will follow suit in a sick spectacle of national servitude, openly selling themselves or offering their wealth in a desperate but ultimately futile attempt to buy stability from the Western imperial powers.

The only difference between the 19th century protectorates and the neo-protectorates of today is that in the past the British had to pay their Arab wards an annual sum of money, while today the financial flows are reversed — the Arab wards have to pay the Western powers for the privilege of being protected, and the illusion of being taken seriously.

2. The tradition of mandated territories is once again back with us, though this time the mandates are unofficial. Northern Iraq is a mandated territory, its destiny in the hands of the Western powers who have parked a few fancy airplanes in south-east Turkey, in a poor show in which military glitter cannot hide the underlying reality of diplomatic sleaze. Iraqi sovereignty over its northern territories has been transferred to foreign powers, who will decide what to do with it when they deem it appropriate.

The southern region of Lebanon is an Israeli mandated territory, which Israel will continue to govern indirectly until it decides to do otherwise. The Lebanese will complain and the Arabs will ask for the implementation of relevant U.N.

resolutions requiring an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, but all to no avail, for the mandate will prevail.

The rest of Lebanon is a Syrian mandated territory, formally linked to Syria in a bilateral cooperation and coordination agreement that is the prototype of the neo-mandatory arrangements that now pertain in this region. It is the indigenous semitic version of the defence accords in the Gulf that provide the legal umbrella for neo-protectorates.

3. The physical integrity, national identity, and political status of several Middle Eastern countries are once again in question, and those countries are taking on new shapes. There are several examples. Lebanon is one, as it gradually reintegrates itself into its traditional historical role as the western periphery of Greater Syria. This is not necessarily a bad thing, if the Syrians and Lebanese want it to happen. If it is the start of the reconstitution of larger and more viable national entities that traditionally flourished in this region (Assyria, Mesopotamia, Egypt, etc.), and the first signs of the reversal of the fragmentation of the Arab World carried out by the Western imperial powers around 1920, then it could be a positive development. Time will tell.

Somalia is breaking up into the former imperial territories of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. How this will turn out in the end is not clear, but it is very clear that the unified Somali state has not been a global trendsetter in national viability. Djibouti is similarly torn by internal pressures, as the tribes of the Afars and the Issas seek either to assert their dominance or to split and form their own mini-states, veritable Dinkey Toy countries that can only survive by selling themselves at birth to the highest regional or international bidder.

Sudan is similarly split into northern and southern regions, ravaged by civil war and drought, the concept of statehood exposed as a cruel fiction in the absence of a national accord on the meaning and purpose of statehood.

The Western Sahara, a vast, empty land on the periphery of Arabism, nevertheless struggles with great questions of identity and allegiance. It is soon to determine its fate, whether as an independent state or part of Morocco. Its people matter, but its minerals obviously matter more. Meanwhile, the people of Mauritania press their leaders for more democratic rule, demanding a more equitable and responsive order, reiterating the pleas for individual rights and national dignity that were first uttered by those Arabs who sought freedom from Ottoman rule and Western tutelage at the turn of the century.

The former states of north and south Yemen have already reunited, reversing over a century of British colonial rule in Aden and the south, and decades of artificial independence for the two former Yemeni states. But Yemen is a poor and tortured land, valiantly trying to affirm the supremacy of civil society over the powerful forces of tribalism. The experiment is young, and may or may not succeed. Yemen, too, has mineral wealth in the form of oil, and oil emits a stench that tickles the noses of Western commercial lords thousands of miles away. Oil will bring the imperial vultures to south-eastern Arabia in the 1990s as it brought the commercial vultures from London and Paris to northern Iraq and Iran in the 1920s and 1930s.

Palestine and Zionism continue their struggle for existence and identity in Palestine, fighting, talking, and posturing in a protracted struggle that has not stopped since 1896. In nearly 100 years, the fundamental rights and relationships of these two people in Palestine have not been resolved to the satisfaction of all.

Palestine and Jordan are once again trying to work out their natural, symbiotic relationship. They were a single natural unit from the day of Creation until 1947, when they were separated by the establishment of Israel. They were united in the early 1950s, and then separated again in 1988, yet all the time feeling that they need to develop a more durable relationship that serves them both. This, too, remains

to be worked out.

The north and south of Iraq are also up for grabs, prizes for the most clever participants in the game of Arab Monopoly, a game in which countries are mere properties to be bought, sold and traded, whether by foreign or regional powers or autocratic indigenous leaderships.

4. Today as in 1920, the Kurds are the losers once again, as they suffer the repeated indignity of being used by local and Western powers as pawns in a vicious game of imperial power politics. They negotiate, they hear promises of foreign support, they flee to the mountains, they resist and fight assorted enemies, and in the end they are forgotten, until they become useful in the next crisis, the next imperial move. They teach the world about places called Zakho and Dohuk, and then the world quickly forgets, because the American secretary of state no longer travels to visit the Kurds on their cold mountainside of death.

5. As the Middle East struggles with all of these indigenous issues and forces — borders, identities, rights, political relationships, profits — the attention of the world focuses on a conference in Europe, a gathering that may determine the destiny of the Middle East for many decades to come. Early this century, we followed many other conferences, in Paris, San Remo, Sevres, and other European cities, and we heard grand proclamations from the American president, Woodrow Wilson, about a new world based on the self-determination of all peoples. Today, we watch Madrid, and once again listen to the political oratory of an American president who speaks of a new world order, a better world ruled by law and justice. We have been here before. We have navigated this complex landscape. We have heard these words say all of these things before. So, why are we here again? Why are the Kurds dying on the mountains once again, the Palestinians and Zionists clashing in Palestine, treaties of protectorates and mandates signed once again between parties exchanging cash, sharing fear, and wallowing in their blindness to the truths of humankind and history?

We are here, of course, because we are destined to suffer the full consequences of the lies, duplicity, falsehoods, artificialities, conveniences, and imperial greed of the 1920s, which in turn generated an Arab order that has been unjust, untenable and unstable. We see that most of the Middle East today is ravaged by instability and economic regression, if not outright warfare and civil strife, because the state system and domestic political orders that came out of the 1920s were unnatural, and could not survive.

Therefore, today we see neo-protectorates and neo-mandates, Arab states crumbling at their peripheries, fake little Arab mini-states scrambling to buy a few more years in the message parlor of nation-states, imperial armies re-establishing bases in the area, a frenzied Israeli state unsure of how long it can rely on its guns for its survival as an alien fortress state in the area, and Arabs in their tens of millions turning to God for the identity that has been denied them by their governments.

We see the whole world converging on Madrid, seeking to resolve the mess that was spawned by British and French imperial arrogance in the 1920s. We see the one-and-a-half superpowers of today's world working diligently to stabilise the Middle East. We see frantic diplomacy, focussed yet again on assuring the rights of Palestinians and Zionists in Palestine.

In many ways, 1991 is a replay of the period around 1920, but this time we are more aware of the imperial game, we know the fears of scared and insecure local serfs who cover bondage as a means of survival. If we are to succeed today where we failed in the 1920s, we would do well to learn the lessons of history. We must finally bury the presumptions yet dangerous innocence of Western powers who claim to have overcome the forces of history, without their realising that it is history itself that has driven them to Madrid — poking and prodding them all the way from Texas, like reluctant cattle, trying to avoid their destiny, but doomed to face it.

Middle East peace conference a triumph for U.S. power

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The peace conference opening in Madrid on Wednesday is a high-water mark for U.S. prestige and power in the troubled Middle East.

Following on its victories in the cold war and in the Gulf, the United States has cajoled reluctant Arabs and Israelis for the first time to begin face-to-face negotiations aimed at ending their decades-old conflict.

"It's been an enormous exhibition of power and persuasion to get this going. Merely by convening the conference, the United States has changed the parameters of the Middle East peace conference," said Barry Rubin, a Middle East scholar with Johns Hopkins University.

By coaxing the parties to the table, Mr. Rubin argues, Washington with support from co-sponsor Moscow transformed the conflict from one about the existence and survival of Israel to one about where its permanent borders will be set.

Trading heavily on its undisputed position as the world's only superpower, the United States had no compunction either in exerting its own power or in exploiting the weaknesses of others to bring the rival parties to the table.

In a dramatic power play, President George Bush refused to deal with an Israeli request for economic aid, in the form of loan guarantees worth \$10 billion, while negotiations to convene the conference were in progress.

In doing so, he handed the powerful American pro-Israel lobby a humiliating defeat.

But that battle has left Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir bruised and full of distrust towards the United States. It might also have persuaded the Arabs that all they have to do now is sit back and let Mr. Bush deliver a string of Israeli concessions at the talks.

That could be a mistake. A balanced U.S. position that enjoys the trust of both sides is vital if the negotiations are to make

progress.

"We welcome a U.S. role as a mediator. What worries us is when the broker becomes an arbitrator," said one Israeli source in Washington.

Mr. Bush now has to rebuild fences with Mr. Shamir, whom he will meet in Madrid. The tone and substance of that meeting will be crucial.

On the other side of the conflict, Secretary of State James Baker forced Palestinians to accept what many regarded as humiliating Israeli terms to attend the peace conference — no Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), no representatives from East Jerusalem or of Palestinians in exile.

Mr. Baker insisted that Palestinians had the most to gain from the negotiations and the most to lose if there were no talks.

As victor in the cold war, the United States could afford to be magnanimous towards the Soviet Union, allowing Moscow into the Middle East picture as a junior partner after decades of total exclusion from Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

Permitting Moscow to co-sponsor the peace conference put an international stamp on the talks, easing Arab suspicions of taking part in an event totally dominated by Washington.

But the reality of the situation

foiled no one. The collapse of Soviet power left Syria without a superpower sponsor and in desperate need of a relationship with the United States. The price of that was participation in direct peace talks with the hated Zionist enemy.

Now the United States must prevent Syria from winning control of the Arab negotiating position and dictating a uniformly hardline stance in the talks.

Syria refuses to take part in regional talks with Israel on issues such as sharing water, arms control, refugees and the environment. It is trying to persuade other Arabs not to attend the talks, to which Israel attaches enormous importance, until Israel gives up occupied territories.

The U.S. interest is to ensure those talks happen with or without Syria. It must invoke the gratitude of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states it saved from Iraq in the Gulf war.

"If Syria prevents the regional talks from happening, then progress in the bilateral talks will be very difficult indeed," said Martin Indyk, director of the private Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Ironically, solving the Middle East crisis has become less important to U.S. foreign policy than it was during the 1970s and '80s when the U.S. economy was rocked by Arab oil embargoes and the region was a potential superpower flashpoint.

"Mr. Bush now has unprecedented power in the Middle East. ... turning that power into peace will require skill and subtlety, patience, toughness ..."

But Mr. Bush now has unprecedented power in the Middle East.

Most analysts say that turning that power into peace will require skill and subtlety, patience, toughness and probably eventually large amounts of money to compensate each side for the sacrifices it will have to make to gain peace.

Breakthrough or deadlock?

The speeches will be headline, the tone shrill, the language unyielding. But will the Middle East peace conference take a step towards solving the Arab-Israeli conflict — or will it be a breakthrough to a dead end?

"What matters is not what happens in the conference room but what happens in the corridors," said Mr. Indyk.

"The question is: Will there be

a sign from one or both sides that they want to get down to business?"

Few expect the formal speeches to show flexibility.

"It will be more of a television spectacular than an opportunity to learn what the real positions of the parties are," said Middle East expert Richard Murphy, a former assistant secretary of state now with the Council on Foreign Relations.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will insist that his country will not relinquish any part of the Golan Heights, West Bank or Gaza Strip — territories it has occupied since 1967 and covets for religious, security and patriotic reasons.

The Arabs, led by Syria and backed by Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and the Palestinians, will demand Israeli withdrawal to pre-1967 borders, Palestinian rights to self-determination and an immediate halt to Israeli settlement of the territories.

Many analysts believe both Israel and Syria, the key Arab state, are going to the conference more to avoid offending the United States than out of a real wish for reconciliation.

Nonetheless, the working assumption in Washington is that there is potential for a deal.

This is particularly true regarding the 1.75 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation whose plight, both politically and economically, is increasingly grim.

Since Israel and the Palestinians will be discussing interim arrangements to give inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza a measure of self-rule rather than trying to decide the final status of the territories, there is some hope that progress can be made.

"There ought to be an ability of the parties to work something out on interim self-government arrangements (for Palestinians)," a senior U.S. official said.

But the official called the dispute between Israel and Syria over the Golan Heights "the toughest nut." He said talks over the strategic plateau would be

"very tough."

Before the 1967 war, Syria used the Heights to lob missiles and artillery shells at Israeli villages in the Jordan Valley below. Israel's control of the territory after 1967 put it within artillery range of Damascus.

But conference speeches might reveal some hints of progress even on this issue.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"If Syria in its speech makes any attempt to address Israeli security concerns on the Golan Heights, then we might have a serious process," said Robert Satloff, a scholar on Arab issues.

"But if Syria simply reiterates United Nations resolutions then we have a stalemate," he said.

Similarly, Mr. Shamir may or may not indicate in his speech a willingness at least to talk about the future of the Golan Heights, which Israel virtually annexed in 1981 and currently says it will not negotiate over.

There are at least three issues that could cause the fragile peace process to break down before it is properly established — the role of the PLO, Israeli settlements and the venue for bilateral negotiations to follow the Madrid conference.

Israel is entering the talks on condition that the PLO be kept out of them because it sees the organisation as committed to destroying the Jewish state through terrorism.

But the distinction between PLO and non-PLO Palestinians is somewhat artificial. Most, if not all, of the Palestinian delegates to the conference give at least nominal allegiance to PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Making things even more delicate, a Palestinian steering committee — made up of individuals Israel would not accept on the delegation itself — will be in Madrid as liaison between the official representatives and Tunis.

Mr. Indyk said Mr. Shamir had taken "a good deal of PLO sta-

tic" and would probably have to endure more as the Palestinians try to blue the line between the delegation and the PLO.

But Mr. Satloff said the interplay between the delegation and the PLO was more subtle. Palestinians inside the territories rather than PLO chief Yasser Arafat decided the composition of the delegation and ensured that it was made up of moderates and realists with whom Israel could do business.

The talks could also screech to a halt if the Arabs demand an end to Jewish settlements as a condition for negotiations.

Mr. Shamir is bound to reject that, even if the Arabs offer in exchange to suspend their economic boycott of Israel and to end the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

Finally, the United States will have to mediate a compromise over the site of the bilateral negotiations that are supposed to begin immediately after the peace conference.

Israel wants them in the Middle East to symbolise its acceptance over Arabs as a legitimate part of the region. Syria, which wants to deny Israel such acceptance until it give up territory, wants the talks to be held in Madrid.

Resolving this will be the first of many challenges for U.S. diplomacy on what is certain to be a long road to peace.

CORRECTION

In the Hanna Nasir article headlined "The double talk of Mr. Baker" (Pg. 4, Monday's Jordan Times) a line was inadvertently dropped out. In the middle of the second column, the sentence reads: "Hence by logical deduction the resolution is further buttressed by the preamble of the resolution..." Instead, the sentence should read "Hence by logical deduction the resolution refers to withdrawal from all the occupied territories. This point is further buttressed..." The Jordan Times regrets the error.

Delegation carries olive branch

(Continued from page 1)

affair to choose whom it wanted to head its negotiating team.

"The problem is not the individuals. There are basic and real issues that must be addressed and we will address them," Dr. Abu Jaber stressed.

The Palestinian side of the joint delegation also appeared cautiously optimistic.

Faisal Husseini, who heads the Palestinian steering committee, told reporters that the Palestinians were going to the conference "with an open mind and an open heart" to achieve peace and that the opportunity for that was there.

He said he was optimistic that the conference had a chance to succeed if the Israelis wanted it and if they were sincere to achieve just peace in the region.

"I believe there is every chance for success," Mr. Husseini said. "The only problem is the Israelis; if they are really sincere to go for building a real peace, and we hope they are, we will do our best to push the peace process forward."

When asked how he felt as he headed for the conference, Mr. Husseini said that this was the first time the Palestinians were equal to any other party.

"It is the first time since a long time that we the Palestinians are sitting on the negotiating table like any other party," Mr. Husseini said. "We are now giving the answer to that false fiction which said that this land is without people and that we are people without land. We are the people and we are here."

Palestinian Press Association President Radwan Abu Ayyash, who is accompanying the Palestinian side of the joint delegation as an advisor, described his feeling as a "mixture of anxiety, worries, readiness and challenge."

However, he appeared hopeful that the Palestinians would achieve their goals of national rights and self-determination.

"We are sure that we are going to restore our rights by struggling in this battle, and we hope that one day we will achieve our national rights together with the Jordanians as one

family," Mr. Abu Ayyash told reporters as he waited to board the plane.

He said that the Palestinian team — which is made up of 14 negotiators and 14 from the steering committee — was worried that the American assurances would not be fulfilled on the ground.

"We fear that the Israelis, together with the Americans, might play tricks and that the Americans might not fulfill their guarantees," Mr. Abu Ayyash stressed. "But we are going to use these guarantees as assurances given by the United States to be fulfilled on the ground."

In a letter of assurances, the U.S. administration said that Resolution 242 means Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. The Americans say that Jerusalem should remain united and that the status of the Holy City will be addressed at the negotiations.

Reiterating a Palestinian National Council (PNC) decision, Mr. Abu Ayyash welcomed a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation because of the "historic, geographic and social dimensions," but only after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

"We cannot form a confederation

between one entity which has no name with an established state, Jordan. The confederation can only be possible after the establishment of the state," Mr. Abu Ayyash stressed.

Commenting on Israel's barring of three Palestinian advisors from attending the Madrid talks, Mr. Abu Ayyash said that it was expected of Israel to try to make problems, but that the Palestinians would not "kneel to blackmail" and would continue their "struggle on all fields."

Upon arrival in Madrid Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordanian media team accompanying the delegation that Jordan "will defend its rights with all the might it has."

He voiced hope that members of the joint delegation will succeed in "defending our right comes at this historical conference."

Dr. Abu Jaber will deliver Jordan's address to the conference on Thursday. The address, he said, will deal with the basic principles of Jordan's stand on the peace issue.

Member of the steering committee on the Palestinian side Hani Ashrawi stressed the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at the highest levels "so that to achieve the aspired goals."

"The moments we are living will have a significant impact on the Palestinian cause and the region as a whole," Dr. Ashrawi told journalists.

Violence aborts Amman rally

(Continued from page 1)

meeting room. Afterwards the two opposing sides physically clashed and some eyewitnesses reported slight injuries among some members of the crowd. Police "stood by watching the two groups clash, but did not intervene," according to the eyewitnesses. No police comment was immediately available.

Mohammad Abu Faris, a Muslim Brotherhood parliamentarian, started to recite verses of Koran in the hope to calm the crowd, but the interruptions continued and the rally was postponed to a date to be announced later. Police in the meantime surrounded the main hall and started clearing it out.

Muslim activist, Sheikh Saad Abu Mahfouz, was seen being taken away in a police car. A police officer denied the Sheikh was being detained and said that he was simply driven "home with police escort."

There were some blood stains in the deserted hall as well as overturned chairs and glass all over the floor. Leaflets were left on the podium by the organisers, who were manhandled by unknown men.

Lower House of Parliament member Leith Shbeilat, whose opposition to the peace conference is well-known was reported as saying that the whole "charade was organised in order to sabotage the rally. It is a conspiracy."

ESCWA highlights problems

(Continued from page 1)

needs, Jordan's balance of payments will suffer a minimum deficit of \$1.595 billion during the period 1992-1994.

The ESCWA document, drawing on information from government as well as independent sources, offers a systematic presentation of the characteristics and number of returnees, the macro-economic effects and sectoral impact of the influx, the magnitude of the problem and assistance needed.

It estimated that 665,000 Jordanians/Palestinians (including holders of temporary Jordanian passports) were living in the Arab Gulf states — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain — in August 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait and precipitated the Gulf crisis.

Over half of that total (32 per cent) lived in Kuwait, 34 per cent in Saudi Arabia, eight per cent in the UAE and five per cent in Qatar. It was estimated that 330,000 Jordanians/Palestinians were employed overseas in 1987, including 161,000 in Saudi Arabia and 81,000 in Kuwait (the rest of the Palestinians in the Gulf states possessed documents issued by Egypt, Lebanon and Syria).

Noting that the Jordanian/Palestinian community in the Gulf states had a relatively higher level of education and most of them were skilled labourers, the ESCWA study underlines the problem faced by Jordan in creating and offering employment opportunities as well as infrastructure services by pointing out that 300,000 expatriates — including women, infants and school-age chil-

dren — would have returned to Jordan by the end of 1991.

The Department of Statistics estimates that 84 per cent of all returnees have come from Kuwait, eight per cent from Saudi Arabia and 2.5 per cent from the UAE.

While some of the returnees might have found employment in Jordan by replacing non-Jordanian workers, the unemployment problem could in no way be addressed without "heavy investments in large scale as well as small enterprises that are labour intensive in nature," the ESCWA study says. The study refers to the chaos that the Gulf crisis has created in Jordan's troubled economy, which was on the course to gradual recovery under a restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when the crisis struck, and affirms that the estimated amount of JD 1.18 billion needed for creating jobs are beyond Jordan's limited financial resources.

The document takes note of the funds brought in by the returnees which have created a higher liquidity level in Jordanian banks, but points out that this is only a "one-time boost" to the Kingdom's balance of payments while the overall impact of the loss of regular expatriate remittances "is certainly negative."

It estimates that expatriates' remittances will fall by \$825 million between 1992 and 1994 while the additional imports to cater to the returnees would amount to \$570 million during the same period. "These two factors alone are expected to adversely affect Jordan's balance of payment by \$1.395 million over the coming three years," the study recommends that measures be undertaken to encourage the employment of the returnees in

import-substitution and/or export-oriented projects and to seek new job opportunities in the Gulf states as well as other countries such as Libya, Iraq, the European states, and Australia.

While many of the returnees have been successful investors abroad and experienced managers and have funds of a minimum level to start businesses, the political as well as "a shortage of identified projects for successful investment" appear to discourage them, the study asserts. There is a need for "new measures in Jordan to encourage the utilisation of the resources of the returnees, including project guidelines, training and credit facilities to encourage the returnees to initiate new investment projects," according to the study.

"The need for external aid from the major credit donor countries and regional and international organisations is very clear," says the report. "Amounts already received... appeared to be considerably lower than the country's needs."

It also recommends that technical assistance be extended to Jordan to help it develop on-the-job training programmes, set up small-scale enterprise advisory committees, generate jobs in the labour-intensive handicrafts sector, build schools and clinics as well as drill wells, and involve the returnees in the housing construction sector.

In addition, ESCWA also suggests that a U.N. multi-disciplinary team be assigned to Jordan to identify priority projects and a committee be set up to work with the concerned governments to ensure that the returnees receive their rights, indemnities, properties, job termination benefits, etc. from their respective former places of employment.

Profiles of peace conference delegation heads

MADRID (R) — Leading Middle Eastern figures at the Arab-Israeli peace conference which opens on Wednesday:

Israeli: Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's decision to lead the Israeli delegation in person puts the spotlight on his long-standing vow that "not an inch" of land held by Israel will be exchanged for peace. Now 76, he has dedicated a lifetime as guerrilla leader, spy and politician to making all of the land of Israel into a modern Jewish state.

Mr. Shamir emigrated to British-ruled Palestine from Poland in 1935. His father, mother, and siblings stayed behind and perished in the Nazi holocaust.

After completing law studies he joined underground groups which fought both Britain and the Arabs. From 1942 he was one of the leaders of the "Stern gang" — the Lohamei Herut Yisrael or fighters for the freedom of Israel — which assassinated British Minister Lord Moyne in Cairo in 1944 and U.N. mediator Count Bernadotte in 1948.

In the 1950s and 1960s Mr. Shamir was a top agent of Israel's secret service, Mossad. He was elected to parliament in 1974 and first became prime minister in 1983, succeeding Menachem Begin as leader of the right-wing Likud Party.

Palestinians: Faisal Al Husseini, 51, is overall delegation head but is barred from the conference table because Israel re-

fuses to me residents of East Jerusalem. His father led Arab Jewish forces in a battle. Palestinian sources say the Hussein clan owns a quarter of East Jerusalem land lying outside the ancient walled city.

Frequently arrested or restricted by Israel for his open support for the PLO, especially after an uprising in the occupied territories began in December 1967, Mr. Hussein was released from detention without trial in early 1969. He has been the leading spokesman for Palestinians in the occupied territories during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visits to the Middle East to set up the peace conference.

Haider Abdel Shafi, 72 will lead West Bank and Gaza Strip representatives in a joint delegation with Jordan. A leftist doctor, he is head of the Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip. Palestinians say he is highly respected by all but the most radical Muslims. He was a founder of the pre-Yasser Arafat PLO 27 years ago but has had no contact with it since Israel outlawed it in 1967.

Asked by Israel Television why he was chosen for Madrid, Mr. Abdel Shafi said: "I suppose because I am an independent man."

Jordanians: Political Science Professor Kamel Abu Jaber, 59, was catapulted into the post of foreign minister on Oct. 3 for

what is seen as an unenviable assignment, leading the Jordanian-Palestinian team in Madrid.

He has been one of Jordan's biggest boosters of peace talks, for which few but His Majesty King Hussein have shown much enthusiasm. "Arabs will not lose from going to the conference," he says. He believes that if the talks fail, Israel will be blamed.

A Christian in a post usually filled by a Muslim, he is married to an American he met while studying at Syracuse University in New York State. He later obtained a doctorate in oriental studies from Princeton University and writes books and press articles in Arabic and English. "All his life he has tried to make East and West understand each other better," says his wife, Loretta.

Syrians: Farouq Al Sharras, 53, proved his mettle as a skilled negotiator by helping win release of Western hostages in Lebanon and reconciling radical Lebanese factions who had been at each other's throats for years.

Patient and tireless, Mr. Sharras has played a prominent role in transforming Syria's image as a foe of the West to a rational state interested in serious peace and global cooperation.

Once he sat for 11 hours at the Foreign Ministry in Damascus, emerging only after winning a pledge of peace between rival Lebanese Shiite groups — Amal and Hizbollah.

His repeated appearances with freed Western hostages on television screens ensured goodwill in the West and hammered home the message that Syria was no longer an advocate of maverick groups in the Middle East.

Mr. Sharras, a member of the ruling Bath Party, is a trusted aide of President Hafez Al Assad who believes peace with Israel is possible only through an overall Middle East solution ensuring the rights of the Palestinians.

Mr. Sharras said he would not shake hands with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy — who was supposed to lead Israel's delegation to the Madrid talks — because the Jewish state was still occupying Arab lands.

He studied English literature and international law at Damascus and London Universities and served various government posts before becoming foreign minister in 1984.

Lebanese: Faris Bouez, 36, will be the least experienced delegation leader at the peace conference. A Maronite Christian lawyer, he was active in the National Bloc, a pacifist group which opposed Syria's military presence in Lebanon, but he held no major political post until his father-in-law, President Elias Hrawi, named him foreign minister in December.

He has told reporters he goes to Madrid with a single aim: to secure an Israeli withdrawal from

South Lebanon.

Egyptians: Amr Mousa, 54, is an energetic career diplomat who can argue for hours and made his reputation as a first rate drafter at Islamic and Arab summits. A law school graduate, he was head of Egypt's mission at the U.N. when President Hosni Mubarak appointed him foreign minister in May.

Gulf Cooperation Council: Abdullah Bishara, 55, has served as secretary-general since the GCC was formed in 1981. He was Kuwait's ambassador to the United Nations for 10 years before that. He studied in England and the United States and has a master's degree in political science. He gives frequent press interviews and is untypical for the area — does not shy away from sensitive questions. The GCC is an economic and defence alliance of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Arab Magreb Union: Mohamad Amamou, 57, a Tunisian diplomat, was an adviser to President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali until he was named the AMU's first secretary-general on Oct. 22. The North Africa bloc consists of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania and Libya. Libya opposed the Madrid conference but a majority agreed to send Mr. Amamou as an observer.

Baker's 'obstacles to peace' set in concrete as foes meet

By Robert Mahoney

Reuters

JERUSALEM — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, architect of the Middle East peace conference, calls them obstacles to peace.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sees them as the expression of the right of Jews to live in Israel.

Jewish settlements on captured Arab lands is likely to be a stumbling block at the conference. But while both sides argue in Madrid, Baker's Zionists will be setting more of Mr. Baker's obstacles in concrete.

Convoys of trucks trundle up the West Bank hills from the coast almost every day bringing mobile homes to expand the Jewish presence among the nearly two million Palestinians of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem.

Bulldozers level hilltops for new homes and gouge roads through former Palestinian olive terraces to enable settlers to travel to jobs across the 1967 border in Israel proper.

"Annual expansion has been running at 20 per cent over recent years," said settler spokesman Marc Zell, part of a seven-member settler team which is going to Madrid independently of the Israeli government.

The aim of this building boom is simple — to fill the occupied territories with enough Jews to make it difficult for an Israeli government to hand it back to Palestinians.

A land-for-peace deal with the

Arabs is anathema to Mr. Shamir. Why give up land now, he tells Israelis, when in a few years you can have both the land and peace.

To turn that dream into bricks and mortar Mr. Shamir has unleashed the burly figure of Ariel Sharon. As Mr. Shamir's housing minister, Mr. Sharon has overspent his budget an lured thousands of young Israelis and Jews from North America into the territories with a package of cheap housing, tax breaks and easy loans.

For the same price as a tiny apartment in Tel Aviv, a family can buy a villa in the settlement town of Ariel, 30 kilometres away.

Other settlers go brimming with religious-nationalist fervour, exercising what they call their right to live in "Judea and Samaria," the Biblical name for the land between the River Jordan and Israel's 1967 borders.

Whatever their motivation the settlers serve Mr. Shamir's purpose. He says the West Bank with its high ground overlooking Jordan is vital to Israeli security. For the same reasons he encourages Israelis to move to the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau captured from Syria.

The settlement drive has been less successful in the Gaza Strip where three quarters of a million Palestinians are crammed together in refugee camps and decaying towns.

Nevertheless, settlement experts like Meirav Benvenisti believe the settlers have passed the point of no return. The Palesti-

nians will never get all their land back, he says.

Even opposition Labour Party doves, who advocate returning most of the land, concede the settlers cannot be forced out.

"A Labour government would not risk a civil war among Jews," said Labour member of Parliament Benjamin Ben Eliezer, a former West Bank army commander, offered by Labour as a delegate to the Middle East peace conference. Mr. Shamir declined to include him.

Israel enticed the 7,000 settlers in the Sinai to leave when it handed back the desert to Egypt under the 1975 Camp David peace accords with payments totalling \$350 million. To repeat this with the quarter of a million Jews now living across the old green line border would bankrupt the

country.

About 100,000 settlers live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 143 settlements. Some 12,000 live on the Golan. Up to 140,000 have moved into the ring of buildings slowly closing around the 150,000 Arabs of Arab Jerusalem.

Settlement began in earnest when Mr. Shamir's Likud Party toppled Labour in 1977. But ironically the pace has quickened during the past four years of the Palestinian uprising or intifada. Stones have failed to deter the settlers who, besides enjoying massive army protection, arm themselves with Uzi submachine guns.

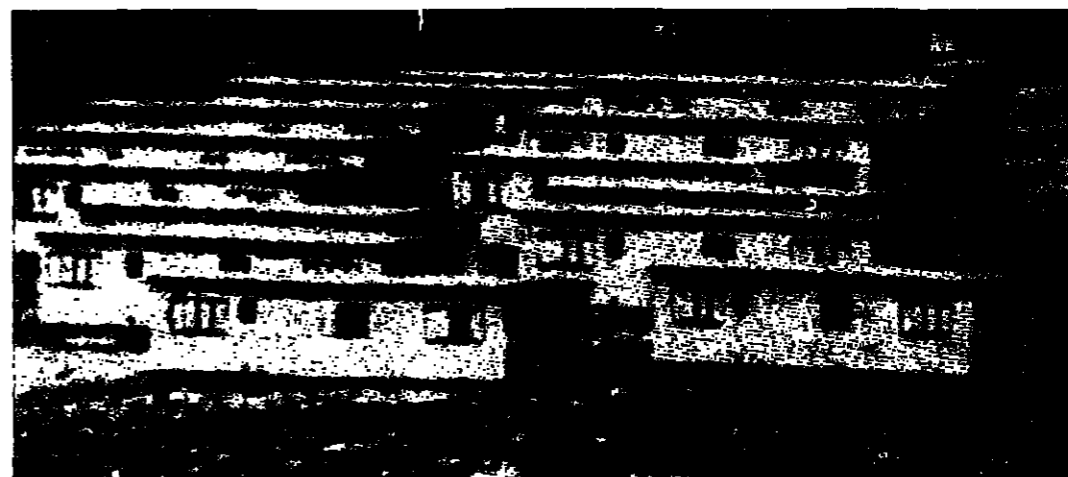
The settlement drive has been given further impetus by the arrival of 350,000 Soviet Jews in the past two years. Israel expects one million more 1995.

"For the big immigration we need a big Israel," Mr. Shamir said in January last year as the Kremlin opened the floodgates.

To keep U.S. housing aid Israel promised not to direct the newcomers across the green line. But their presence has flooded the housing market, displacing Israelis who have flowed into the territories.

The realisation that the West Bank could soon be paved over was a powerful prod in bringing Palestinians aboard Mr. Baker's peace mission after years of mistrust of Washington, Israel's biggest bankroller and arms supplier.

That realisation may have come too late to save much of their land, especially areas near the green line and Jerusalem.



Settlements mushroom in the occupied territories. Aim? To fill them with enough Jews to make it difficult for an Israeli government to hand it back to Palestinians.

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Final round of tennis championship begins

By Aileen Ramnayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The third and final round of the Jordan Tennis Championship began Monday at Al Hussein Youth City with 47 players taking part in this decisive round whose winner will be the Jordanian men's singles tennis champion.

In the preliminary matches played Monday Hani Al Ali crushed Yousef Betrawi 6-0, 6-1; Hanna Kawa beat Mohammad Hamed 6-2, 6-2; Nabil Marqus overwhelmed Ayman Khalifeh 6-1, 6-2; Mahmoud Al Disi eliminated Sami Kawa 6-1, 6-2; Asem Al Helou crushed Wael Al Daqqaq 6-0, 6-0; Ziyad Al Madani beat Rami Al Hadid 6-2, 6-3; Iyad Abu Hamda won against Jamil Shamallah when Shamallah failed to appear at the tournament; Imad Maraqa defeated Khalil Fidda 6-3, 6-4; Khaled Al Nazer overwhelmed Shahab Al Wer 6-1, 6-2; Mohammad Ennab eliminated Jarir Tahboub 6-2, 6-2.

In more competitive matches Ihab Shehadeh beat Kaled Al Hussein 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; Khaled Nafa'a won 7-5, 6-4 against Ahmad Al Hadid; and Mohammad Hassounah eliminated Sa'ad Hijawi, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Fifteen matches will be played Tuesday among which Imad Abu Hamda will play Mohammad Ennab; Laith Al Azzouni will meet Mohammad Hassounah; Marwan Hanania will clash against Asem Al Helou; Iyad Al Jallad will play Iyad Abu Hamda; Samir Al Rifai will face Ihab Shehadeh and Ahmad Maher will play Mahmoud Al Disi.

The Jordan Tennis Championship is being held in a three round competition in which points are awarded to the top eight players in each round.

At the end of the second round played in September Hani Al Ali led the overall standings with 500 points followed by Imad Abu Hamda in second place with 300 points and Fares Al Azzouni in third place with 100 points.

Laith Al Azzouni and Samir Rifai are tied in fourth place with 80 points each; Iyad Al Jallad is fifth with 40 points; Ibrahim Al Hadid is sixth with 30 points, followed by Rami Farraj in seventh place with 20 points and Marwan Hanania is eighth with 10 points.

The championship, organized by the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF), is due to be concluded Saturday.

Twins win World Series

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — Gene Larkin's 10th-inning fly ball over a drawn-in outfield scored Dan Gladden to end the tightest seventh game in World Series history as the Minnesota Twins beat the Atlanta Braves 1-0 on Sunday for the championship.

The run climaxed one of the most exciting World Series ever played — one contested between the only two teams in baseball ever to go from last place in the season to first in the next.

But as the clock struck midnight in Atlanta, the Cinderella season for the Braves was coming to an end.

After squandering glorious chances in both the eighth and ninth innings, Minnesota finally scored the game's only run in the 10th, set up by Gladden's leadoff, broken-bat bloop into left-center that stretched into a double.

Gladden then went to third on a bunt. After Kirby Puckett and Kent Hrbek were walked intentionally to load the bases, Larkin, a part-time player, pinch-hit a towering fly ball that fell over the pulled in outfielders.

The Twins stormed the field for a mass celebration, accompanied by the thunderous noise generated by an ecstatic Metrodome crowd, which witnessed Minnesota overcome a 3-2 series deficit with two do-or-die home wins.

Twins ace Jack Morris, who also won the opening game, threw 10 complete innings of seven-hit ball for the win and was named Most Valuable Player of the series.

"The guys kept fighting," Morris said upon receiving the MVP trophy. "I had to regulate the Atlanta series. I had five one-run games and somehow we figured out a way to win this one."

Less than half an hour after the victory, Twins players returned to the field and took turns at a microphone thanking the crowd at the stadium where they won all four games to repeat of the formula that brought them the 1987 championship over the St. Louis Cardinals.

They then ran a lap of the stadium, bounding as they went, to the constant roar from the stands.

The tension-packed finale was a fitting end to a series that had a record three extra-inning games and saw four games decided by the last swing of the bat — unprecedented in 88 years of the World Series.

Morris matched zeroes in a sterling pitching duel against Atlanta's John Smoltz, who had idolized Morris when he was growing up in Detroit and Morris was starting there for the Tigers.

With the World Series on the line, the 36-year-old Morris and the 24-year-old Smoltz, both pitching on just three days rest, held off threat after threat as the pressure built in the scoreless showdown.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This evening finds you with an interesting opportunity to put your new plan in operation and to show that your generous qualities have a highly creative aspect to them as well. Keep alert.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consult with all your partners and allies and get from them a new idea just how you can have a more productive relationship and expand where it means the most.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Think out how and where

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar to International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.7130	1.7027
Deutsche Mark	1.6999	1.7095
Swiss Franc	1.4875	1.4941
French Franc	5.8010	5.8290
Japanese Yen	131.49	132.28
European Currency Unit	1.2045	1.1988

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.37	5.37	5.50
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.37	10.25	10.18
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.25	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25	8.31	8.25
French Franc	8.57	9.06	9.12	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.40	6.18	5.93	5.68
European Currency Unit	9.60	9.81	9.81	9.88

Interest rate for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	360.05	6.95	Silver	4.10	.090

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
Sterling Pound	1.1705	1.1764
Deutsche Mark	0.4023	0.4043
Swiss Franc	0.4601	0.4624
French Franc	0.1179	0.1185
Japanese Yen	0.5193	0.5219
Dutch Guilder	0.3571	0.3589
Swedish Krona	0.1105	0.1117
Italian Lira	0.0536	0.0541
Belgian Franc	0.01961	0.01971

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8070
Lebanese Lira	0.0776	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.1829	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1864	0.1875
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7580	1.7670
UAE Dirham	0.1864	0.1875
Greek Drachma	0.3600	0.5700
Cypriot Pound	1.4500	1.4675

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	26/10/1991 Close	27/10/1991 Close
All-Share	123.70	123.49
Banking Sector	104.43	104.03
Insurance Sector	125.00	125.16
Industry Sector	153.07	153.19
Services Sector	131.62	130.96

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7030/40	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollars	1.1258/63	Canadian dollar
	1.7080/90	Deutsche mark
	1.9255/65	Dutch guilder
	1.4975/82	Swiss franc
	35.1518	Belgian franc
	5.8250/8300	French franc
	1276/1277	Italian lire
	132.20/30	Japanese yen
	6.2210/60	Swedish crown
	6.6925/75	Norwegian crown
	6.6140/90	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	359.40/359.90	U.S. dollars

IMF chief wants Pakistan, India to chop defence spending

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) head Michel Camdessus Sunday pleaded with arch-foes India and Pakistan to cut their defence spending to ensure a better life for their people.

He said India was already engaged in "meaningful reductions" in defence expenditure and hoped "Pakistan also will show leadership in this direction."

"What a fine example it will be to the rest of the world if these two great nations can each transfer substantial human and financial resources to activities that will more directly contribute to growth and to the reduction of poverty," he told a seminar in the Punjab provincial capital Lahore.

"What a prospect that could create for a better life for everyone in the sub-continent," he pointed out.

The IMF managing director, who visited India before coming to Pakistan, later told reporters he knew defence cuts could not be achieved overnight.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 and came close to a fourth last year over a

Muslim uprising in Indian Kashmir.

Mr. Camdessus said he did not know if defence cuts would be a condition for any future IMF loans for Pakistan, but said: "They have to tell us what are their policies."

Pakistan, which spends more than 40 per cent of its budget on defence, has always rejected cuts in armed forces spending, saying the enormous strength of India makes them impossible.

The IMF chief said political change in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, had reduced East-West tension, creating the prospect of substantial cuts in military spending and "a rechanneling of human and financial resources to better uses."

Cutbacks planned for Europe and the United States would have important economic consequences for the whole world, he said.

"And surely every developing country should also reassess carefully its military spending, to see whether it can transfer human and financial resources to more productive uses, such as productive investment that will underpin

its growth strategy," he said.

A senior Pakistani official said the IMF chief's remarks were valid but said India did not include some major armaments projects in its defence budget and it, too, must be asked to reduce its spending.

Mr. Camdessus, in Pakistan for talks with the government on the economy and IMF funding, said the last tranche of \$140 million of a structural adjustment facility, would come up for approval in December.

Pakistan ran into problems with the IMF over the disbursement of a \$868 million package of structural adjustment and standby loans last year when it failed to meet fund targets.

The final standby instalment of about \$100 million was never issued, but IMF officials recommended last month the structural loan payment should go ahead.

That opened the way for Pakistan to be considered for emergency help for countries hit by the Gulf war, and Mr. Camdessus said Islamabad might also seek a new "middle term" structural adjustment package.

Yeltsin announces radical reforms

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced Monday a series of radical economic reforms, including privatisation and freeing of prices.

He appealed to all Russians to support them.

"I am speaking to you at one of the most critical moments of Russia's history — the moment at which it is being decided what Russia and indeed the country as a whole will be like in the coming years and decades," Mr. Yeltsin told the supreme Russian legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies.

"I resolutely call on you to embark unconditionally upon the path of deep reforms, and I ask all sections of the population for support."

Mr. Yeltsin told a virtually silent hall of deputies that inflation had reached a critical level and that 55 per cent of families were living below the poverty line.

"The time has come to act decisively, harshly, without hesitation," he said. "The period of moving in small steps is over. We need a major economic breakthrough."

Mr. Yeltsin said that freeing prices was a painful but necessary measure without which talks of a free market was "empty chatter".

Stabilising the economy would be carried out by tight credit policies, tax reforms and a package of measures to strengthen the virtually worthless rouble, he said.

The currency would be defended by reviewing Russian state expenditure, cutting grants to inefficient enterprises and defence spending, and ceasing to finance those central Soviet ministries that were no longer needed.

Mr. Yeltsin told deputies he was prepared to take direct control of the Russian government to push through the planned reforms.

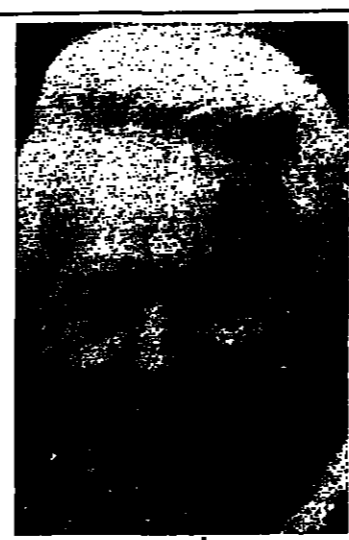
Appearing grim and determined, he said the immediate launch of radical reform could start yielding results by next autumn. The alternative, he said, was to condemn Russia to "beggary".

"I must say frankly that, in today's very acute crisis, we shall not be able to carry out reforms painlessly. The first step will be the most difficult," he said. "There will be some decline in the standard of living, but uncertainty will disappear at last and a clear prospect will emerge," he pointed out.

He appealed for support from the world economic community and said Western companies which wished to invest in Russia would be given special insurance and guarantees.

He asked the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to help the giant republic formulate its economic reforms.

Embarking on the harsh reform path was "the most difficult



Boris Yeltsin

decision of my life," he said, appearing overcome with emotion after a speech lasting one hour and five minutes.

"I have never looked for easy paths but I clearly see that the next months will be the most difficult for me. If I have your support and faith, I am ready with you to follow this path to the end."

The collapse of central Soviet power had opened up an economic "abyss," Mr. Yeltsin said, revealing depleted gold reserves and exhausted stocks of hard currency.

The Russian president proposed banking reform to stop what he called the uncontrolled issue of money and credits.

He said a new "inter-state" bank could be created by Russia and the other Soviet republics if the latter refrained from issuing their own currencies and agreed to a system under which each republic's vote would be proportionate to its capital.

If not, Russia would form its own state bank and introduce its own currency, he said.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose vast republic has been troubled by ethnic unrest and in recent weeks riven by political infighting, said the collapse of the Russian federation must be prevented.

The coup attempt by hardline Soviet communists in August proved that Russia was right to press ahead with the creation of its own national guard independent of the Soviet army, he said.

PLO plans market economy in Palestine

TUNIS (R) — The PLO is drafting plans for a market economy in an embryonic Palestinian state where \$13 billion would be invested in five years, the head of the organisation's economic department said Monday.

Ahmed Abu Ala told Reuters the plan would apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, assuming Israel withdrew from the occupied territories after the Middle East peace talks in Madrid.

He said the plan would be implemented at the beginning of the "transitional phase."

Under the timetable set by Washington and Moscow co-sponsors of the Madrid conference, Israel and the Palestinians should reach a transitional accord for autonomy within one year as a

first phase before a final agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Abu Ala said the general outline of the economic plan was ready and experts were working on details. He said 67 experts inside the occupied territories and 20 others living outside were preparing to programme and would hand in their reports at the end of next month.

Mr. Abu Ala said the West Bank and Gaza Strip would have a market economy "because the Palestinians have an urgent need to release the creativity of the private sector... by giving them every legal guarantee."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat told Palestinian business-

men at a meeting in Tunis last year he hoped the Palestinian state would be "a kind of Middle Eastern Singapore or South Korea."

Mr. Abu Ala said the world community "historically responsible for the Palestinians' situation" would be asked to furnish most of the \$13 billion required to finance the plan.

He added that Palestinian and Arab businessmen outside the territories would also be invited to invest in the planned economy. PLO sources said wealthy Palestinians living in the United States, Latin America, Europe and the Gulf states approved the creation of a Palestinian development bank when they met in Tunis last year.

IATA sees big losses for world airlines

NAIROBI (R) — The Gulf war is not yet over for the world's airlines, who face combined losses of up to \$4 billion on scheduled services this year, officials said at the industry body's annual meeting Monday.

At the conclusion of the war most carriers were of the opinion that traffic would rebound and that 1990 levels would be regained by mid-year. This has not happened, said the International Air Transport Association (IATA) financial committee report released at the meeting.

Gunter Esler, director general of the 202-member IATA, will announce total losses of \$2.7 billion for 1990 — the worst in 46 years of civil aviation history — due mainly to doubled fuel prices and war risk premiums after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year.

IATA estimates losses for the first quarter of 1991, when U.S.-led coalition forces drove Iraq's army out of Kuwait, at \$2.5 billion.

The financial committee report adds: "It is expected that the industry will again show heavy financial losses for 1991."

IATA spokesman John Brindley said businesses and holiday-makers had cancelled flights due to the Gulf war-related recession and fears of terrorism in late 1990 and early 1991.

"Things will be looking better by the end of the year, but we are doing nothing more than getting back to where we were," Mr. Brindley added.

Other issues to be discussed at the two-day meeting include the industry's strategies to cope with congestion, environmental concerns and the increasing range of taxes being imposed on airlines by governments.

The industry showed net profits of \$2.5 billion in 1988 and \$600 million in 1989.

Despite financial losses in 1990, passenger traffic grew by 6.9 per cent to 928 million on both international and domestic services. Freight grew by 0.6 per cent to 14.7 million tonnes.

A decline of 1.7 per cent in international passenger traffic is forecast for 1991, but the annual report adds: "The global economy has still not recovered as quickly as expected by carriers and this could lead to an even worse decline."

But the report predicts passenger traffic will bounce back in 1992 with growth of 9.4 per cent and a steady overall growth of 5.6 per cent in 1991 to 1995. Freight is not expected to grow in 1991, but in the years up to 1995 the report forecasts six per cent growth.

Nobel prizes reach record \$1m mark each

OSLO, Norway (AP) — It took 90 years, and lucky breaks in the real estate market, for the Nobel Foundation to finally match the cash awards it gave with the first Nobel prizes in 1901.

Each of the six 1991 prizes was worth 6 million Swedish kronor, about \$1 million and double the 1989 award.

The first prize of 150,000 Swedish kronor was a huge sum in 1901, roughly equal to \$1 million today.

Even so, many laureates seem not to care about the cash, now received through an unceremonious electronic bank transfer rather than from the hands of a king.

"You definitely get the feeling when you meet them that the money is secondary," said Ake Altness, deputy director of the Nobel Foundation.

"They are so filled with joy and so thrilled about the event that they don't think about money," he said by telephone from the foundation's headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden headquarters.

South African novelist Nadine Gordimer became the first \$1 million Nobel winner this month, and said she would give some of the money away.

Most winners don't need the cash. Mr. Altness said it often goes to humanitarian efforts or scholarships.

But for the Swedes and Norwegians behind the coveted awards it was important to restore the prizes to their original value this year, when all living laureates have been invited to giant, 90th-year festivals in Stockholm and Oslo.

"These will be the largest prizes ever," said Geir Lundestad, of Oslo's Nobel Institute. "As recently as 1975, it was just 630,000 Swedish kronor (\$105,000)," said Mr. Lundestad.

Careful husbanding of the bequest left by Swedish industrial magnate and inventor Alfred Nobel has made the foundation richer than ever. But it still carefully weighs each investment.

"Ethics are very important to us," said Mr. Altness. "If there is any question... we just don't get involved."

For example, it does not invest in arms companies because the Nobel peace prize encourages disarmament efforts.

"Arms is a tricky question. Alfred Nobel invented dynamite. ... He believed that if all the countries of the world had such a terrible doomsday weapons there could be no wars," Mr. Altness said.

Current investments of around 1.7 billion kronor (\$283 million) turned a 105 million kronor (\$17.5 million) profit and founded the Norwegian and Swedish committees that selected winners, as well as their research institutes.

The foundation was not always well-to-do, partly because of cautious stipulations in Nobel's will. "We were on the wrong track for a long time. Nobel's will said his capital had to be transformed into safe papers (such as government bonds). And with the kind of interest paid we couldn't keep up," Mr. Altness said.

The prize declined to a low of 115,000 kronor in 1923, and hovered around 150,000 kronor, despite inflation, until the 1950s. In 1953, the Swedish government allowed diversified investments.

Now the fund has 30 per cent abroad, 20 per cent in Swedish stocks, 40 per cent in bonds and 10 per cent in real estate.

The foundation occasionally accepts new donations but its current bounty was largely a windfall from skyrocketing real estate prices in Sweden.

"The foundation started buying real estate in the 1940s. It was during the war, so it bought buildings all over Sweden (to spread them out) in case of bombing in one city," Mr. Altness said.

"We were lucky enough to get out in March 1989, at the peak of the real estate prices," said Mr. Altness.

The property, mainly office buildings, sold for a roughly 600 million kronor (\$100 million) profit, just before prices plunged up to 40 per cent, he said.

"That allowed a substantial increase in our investments... and the prizes," he said.

Lot to halve fleet

WARSAW (R) — Poland's national airline Lot will halve its fleet and get rid of all its Soviet-made aircraft. Managing Director Bronislaw Klimaszewski told a news conference that by 1994 Lot would fly 20 to 23 planes, compared with the current 42. The fleet would comprise 12 to 15 planes made by the Boeing Co. of the United States, including its 737 and 767 models, and eight ATR 72 short-haul planes ordered from the French-Italian consortium Avions de Transport Regional (ATR).

Lot last week signed a contract worth about \$300 million to buy nine 737 aircraft from Boeing. The first ATR arrived in August. Lot, obliged by the former communist authorities to purchase only Soviet-made aircraft, has grounded its six long-haul Ilyushin-62B because they made an average monthly loss of about 16 billion zloties (\$1.45 million), Mr. Klimaszewski said. Domestic flights, for which ageing Antonov-248 were used, were suspended indefinitely in September because they made a loss of 32 billion zloties (\$2.9 million) in the first eight months of 1991. Mr. Klimaszewski said he hoped the Ilyushins and 21 Tupolev planes, models 154 and 134, would be leased with their crews to Soviet republics.

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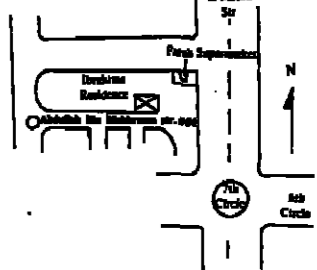
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Yugoslav army warns of more damage to historic Dubrovnik

BELGRADE (R)—The Yugoslav army has issued a stern warning to Croatian militias entrenched in Dubrovnik to surrender or expect more damage to their historic city and its renaissance treasures.

"Paramilitary forces have to surrender and give up their arms," Vice Admiral Miodrag Jokić, in charge of the district around Dubrovnik, said in an interview Monday.

"We're not going to leave our positions until that's done," he told Borba newspaper. The army has clamped a tight siege on Dubrovnik and is dug in two kilometres from the city gates.

It began the siege of the popular tourist port on Oct. 1 in a campaign to prise out militia fighters supporting the Republic of Croatia, which declared its independence on June 25.

A tight army and navy blockade now rings the Adriatic port, controlling all access and overseeing any evacuations. Despite some shooting incidents, an uneasy truce around Dubrovnik agreed last Friday was still holding Monday.

Fighting over the weekend in northeastern Croatia subsided Monday but there were reports of renewed battles with infantry, artillery and army planes around Pakrac.

Two Serbian civilians were killed and one wounded by snipers in the area, Tanjug News Agency said.

Croatian radio said army artillery barrages were pounding the town of Vukovar on the Danube River, Vukovar, with 15,000 people holding out, has been under army siege for two months.

In Sinj in the Kupa area a Croatian National Guardsman was killed and three others wounded in fighting Monday.

Refugees fleeing Dubrovnik told tales of fear and privation for some 50,000 men, women and children trapped inside.

"It is horrible," said a refugee named Eia, 27, who landed on the island of Korcula aboard a ferry packed with some 1,300 Dubrovnik refugees during the night.

"There is no fruit, no milk, not even for pregnant women and babies, no medicine, and the

worst thing is there is no water, everyone is thirsty and everyone smells bad," she said.

But the army held out little hope for an early return to normal life in Dubrovnik, and reacted angrily when a deadline for its surrender demands expired Sunday without acceptance.

"The authorities in Dubrovnik do not care about preserving the historic old town and its treasures," it said Sunday.

It was an implicit threat that fighting which devastated much of the Dubrovnik area last week, including some damage to the city's historic old town, could be resumed.

Battles between the army and Croatian militias cut a trail of destruction, with popular tourist hotels hit by artillery, homes and property wrecked, and whole towns abandoned.

That fighting prompted a denunciation of the army by the European Community, charging it was engaged in an "illegal act clearly aimed at the seizure of an indisputably Croatian city."

The EC has been overseeing an all party peace conference and its

foreign ministers will discuss the Yugoslav crisis in Brussels again Monday.

Meanwhile, more than 90 per cent of the Muslims in the southern Yugoslav Sanjak region voted in an illegal three-day referendum on political autonomy, organisers claimed Sunday.

Defying a ban, Muslims in southern Serbia and in the neighbouring Republic of Montenegro continued voting in secrecy Sunday after police closed down several polling stations.

Sulejman Ugljanin, a local Muslim leader in the Sanjak centre of Novi Pazar, told reporters that some activists of the Muslim Party of Democratic Action sponsoring the vote were arrested in the Montenegro town of Bijelo Polje.

"The overall turnout was more than 90 per cent, even before the voting was over," said Rasim Ljubic, the chairman of the party here.

"The result will show to both Serbian and Montenegrin parliamentarians that the Muslims do not want to be ruled by them any more," Mr. Ugljanin said.

Gorbachev warns republics against secession

PARIS (R)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has warned Soviet republics against secession, saying that not even the giant Russian Federation could survive on its own.

In an interview to be published Wednesday in the Soviet newspaper Moscow News, he said people around Russian President Boris Yeltsin who favoured secession were utopians.

"Russia will not be able to make it on its own. Maybe in a few years... but today such isolationist plans are dangerous," he said. "For other republics, including Ukraine, isolationism is a disaster."

Excerpts of the interview were published Monday in the French daily Le Figaro.

Mr. Gorbachev said the Soviet Union's future lay in a new form of state which would mix elements of a federation, confederation and association.

"Since it must not be a unitarian state, there can be no question of a unitarian way of joining the community," he said. What would keep the new entity together would be a common history and destiny and the strength of joint decisions.

"We inherited an incredibly dense relationship and we must stick together, keep marching forward in close formation."

Mr. Gorbachev said the Soviet Union could not survive with its current war machine encompassing between one-third and one-half of Soviet society and using up its most qualified specialists.

"Military reform is inevitable: We cannot survive with an over-militarised economy," he said.

Meanwhile, the leader of an opposition movement challenging Boris Yeltsin's Russian government has been elected president of a Muslim autonomous republic, Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Monday.

General Dzharbek Dudaev, who has led a rebellion against the local Russian-backed government in the Autonomous Republic of Chechen-Ingushetia, defeated two other candidates.

Speaking at a news conference in the capital Grozny Sunday, Gen. Dudaev said his election was "a qualitative new step in the lives of the Chechen people, and a logical end to the very difficult, historical path to independence."

Radio Russia reported that more than 80 per cent of the region's 1.3 million people voted in Sunday's poll. The region is in southern Russia, close to its border with Georgia.

In a separate development, two rival groups of Russian Communists are battling over the political and financial assets of the suspended Soviet Communist Party.

The vast but unaccounted wealth of the Soviet Party, concentrated inside the huge Russian Federation, has been frozen since August when President Gorbachev suspended the party for complicity in a failed coup attempt.

On Sunday, the newly-named People's Party of Free Russia declared itself the only legitimate successor to the Soviet Communist Party in Russia.

Radio said the party was founded by Russian-Vice President Alexander Rutskoi.

On Saturday, 300 delegates meeting elsewhere in Moscow formed the Socialist Party of Russian Workers "to restore fairness and legality in regard to the Soviet Communist Party."

Mr. Rutskoi's followers broke away from the hardline Russian Communist Party in July.

13 more killed in South African factional fighting

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—At least 13 people were killed in political violence, including six people who died when a grenade exploded in a crowded wedding reception, police said Monday.

Police reports said most of the weekend violence was in the eastern province of Natal, where 11 people were killed. The dead included a police officer stabbed to death near Durban.

Six people were killed and at least 10 injured when a man hurled a grenade at the wedding reception late Saturday in a house at Umbumbulu near Durban.

The Zulu dominated Inkatha Freedom Party said Monday the house belonged to one of its leading supporters in the area. The man was not hurt in the attack.

Black factional violence that has claimed some 5,000 lives in the past two years mostly pits Inkatha against the rival African National Congress. The two groups oppose apartheid, but are divided by ideological and tribal differences.

UK., U.S. and Canada urge nationals to leave Zaire

LONDON (Agencies)—Britain, the United States and Canada urged their citizens Monday to leave Zaire while they can.

In a message on the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) World Service Radio, Britain's Foreign Office said: "In accordance with earlier messages, the British, American and Canadian governments urge their nationals to leave Zaire now."

"It is likely that no further major evacuation will occur after the French and Belgian military complete efforts now under way."

Flights were being arranged Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, it said.

Those wishing to leave should assemble with one piece of luggage, food for 48 hours and any essential medicines. Pets would have to be left behind.

On Friday, Britain advised all its remaining citizens in Kinshasa to go immediately to safe houses. There were about 160 Britons still in the country awaiting evacuation.

Several hundred Britons have left Zaire since riots flared a month ago.

Some 100 Belgian paratroopers were flying to Africa Monday to help evacuate all Belgian nationals from Zaire. Defence Minister

reception late Saturday in a house at Umbumbulu near Durban.

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Guy Coeme announced.

In an interview on Belgian Radio, Mr. Coeme said the troops left during the night and were headed for a central African nation "that is not Zaire."

He would not say where the troops were going, but added they would not enter Zaire, where Belgium still has some 800 troops.

Mr. Coeme said the troops would set up a support base to facilitate a rapid evacuation of the 2,000 to 4,000 Belgians still in Zaire.

On Friday, the Belgium ordered its citizens to leave Zaire and was providing military aircraft to take them out of the former Belgian colony.

On Sunday, Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens urged Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko to agree to a power-sharing arrangement with opposition leaders to prevent further bloodshed after weeks of unrest.

One thousand Belgian troops were sent to Zaire a month ago to protect Belgian expatriates. Between 2,000 and 4,000 Belgians are still in the country, mostly missionaries.

The Belgian community numbered 10,500 on Oct. 23 when a mutiny by Zairian soldiers set off weeks of unrest.

Cambodian leader sceptical of K. Rouge peace commitment

BANGKOK (AP)—The head of Cambodia's ruling party said he is sceptical that Khmer Rouge guerrillas will surrender their arms in accordance with the peace treaty signed last week in Paris.

The comments by Chea Sim signalled that it may be difficult to implement the accord, intended to end nearly 13 years of war between his government and a guerrilla coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge.

The treaty provides for each of the four factions in the conflict to reduce its army by 70 per cent before United Nations-organised elections. The rest of the troops are to stay in U.N.-supervised areas.

Mr. Chea Sim's recent interview with foreign journalists in Phnom Penh was carried by Cambodian state radio Sunday. A transcript was seen in Bangkok Monday.

The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of people in radical social experiments in 1975-78, before Vietnam invaded, and installed the current government in Phnom Penh.

Che Sim said the Khmer Rouge already has shown its intentions by trying to move refugees from Thai camps into guerrilla-held areas of Cambodia, violating the repatriation plan of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"It is difficult to trust this group, which has violated the UNHCR plan," he said. "We are not talking about reducing 70 per

cent of their troops and disarming them yet."

"Will these troops be genuinely disarmed secret documents of this group have shown that troops and weapons have been hidden to prepare for a war lasting from seven to eight years."

Mr. Chea Sim said he believes the other two guerrilla groups—the forces of Prince Norodom Ranariddh and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front—are sincere in wanting peace.

He said it would be difficult for the United Nations to verify troops reduction and disarmament in hilly, remote guerrilla areas, where arms are hidden.

"As for Phnom Penh, troop reduction and disarmament are not problems because the armed forces in Phnom Penh are grouped together and easy for the U.N. to control," Mr. Chea Sim said.

Meanwhile, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Monday that a U.N. peacekeeping force will not be in danger from thousands of land mines left over from 20 years of war in his country.

Mr. Hun Sen said that while his forces suffered 2,500 to 3,000 casualties in the past year—most due to mines—the U.N. troops would be much safer because they would be avoiding the jungle areas of conflict.

"If our forces were hit by land mines, it was because our forces had to go into the jungles to fight a war there," he said.

Column 8

Pope beatifies the 'Catholic Marx'

VATICAN CITY (R)—Pope John Paul has beatified Adolf Kolping, the German priest often called "the Catholic Marx" for his work in setting up the first Catholic Associations of Workers and Trade Unions in the 19th century.

Fr. Kolping dedicated his life to protecting the rights of workers, especially women and children, during the industrial revolution in Europe. He began his work in 1848, the year in which Karl Marx published the "Communist Manifesto," and set up the first Catholic Workers' Association a year later in Cologne.

On the same day in May 1849 and in the same city, Marx inaugurated the first Communist Party Congress. "Kolping was on the side of men," the Pope said during the open-air service in St. Peter's Square, conducted under a large portrait of the priest who died in 1865 aged 52.

Police raid villa, find 'louvre of the mafia'

SALERNO, Italy (R)—Three hundred works of art, many of them stolen, were found during a raid on a luxurious villa belonging to a suspected Naples mafia boss, police said. Stolen works found at the villa of Sabato Galasso included a 15th century painting of a Madonna and child and a pair of small marble lions, taken from a cemetery in Salerno south of Naples. Police also recovered a throne which may have belonged to Naples' last Bourbon King Francesco II and found 12 Ferrari sports cars in the basement.

Police raided the ugly concrete villa outside Salerno this summer but details of what they found were released only Sunday. Investigating magistrates told five members of the Galasso family and two entrepreneurs they were under investigation on suspicion of trafficking in works of art. The villa was protected by several video cameras and its grounds boast a swimming-pool, tennis courts and a soccer pitch.

Verona seeks secretary for Romeo's Juliet

VERONA, Italy (R)—Verona is seeking a secretary to answer love letters addressed to Romeo's Juliet. A council official in Verona, a fabled home of Shakespeare's star-crossed couple, announced Monday a competition to find someone skilled in penning answers to the average two missives sent to Juliet from Italy and abroad every day.

Marlene Dietrich is not ill

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—Marlene Dietrich telephoned the German news magazine Spiegel to deny a report she was seriously ill, the weekly reported Saturday. The daily newspaper Bild ran a front-page story Friday saying the 89-year-old actress was so sick with heart and circulatory ailments that her heart had stopped briefly and relatives had flown to see her in Paris for a last visit. But Spiegel said Miss Dietrich, the star of the The Blue Angel and other glamorous roles beginning in the 1930s, called Spiegel's Hamburg headquarters Friday and said the report shocked her. The Berlin-born Miss Dietrich said her relatives were in New York as usual, and she was seeing friends and acquaintances at her Paris apartment, Spiegel reported.

Rogers, Astaire did not always dance in step

BOSTON (AP)—Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire may have glided across the silver screen, but she says the two didn't always dance in step. Rogers, 80, recalled learning in the 1930s that Astaire had agreed to let one of the couple's dance routines be used in another film. Rogers asked him why she wasn't consulted. "I said to Astaire, 'did you give permission?'" he said, "yes," I said, "you did this without talking to me?" he said, "yes," I said, "what do you think I am, your fifth leg?" Astaire didn't answer. And he didn't apologize, Rogers told the Boston Globe in an interview published Saturday. He never repeated the mistake either, she said. Rogers, who married five times, also said her career was an obsession easier to deal with than men. "My career never talked back to me. My husbands did," Rogers said.

Colombian elections smash two-party system

BOGOTA (R)—Elections for congress and provincial governors have confirmed the strength of Colombia's ruling Liberal Party and smashed a two-party system which has dominated the country for more than 150 years.

With votes from more than 70 per cent of polling stations counted after Sunday's elections, Liberals were set to win 56 seats for an absolute majority in the 102-member Senate.

But high abstention, estimated at up two-thirds of the 15-million-strong electorate, soured victory for Liberal President Cesar Gaviria. He had hoped that recent constitutional reforms would increase participation in politics.

The Liberals will face a fragmented opposition in the upper house of the two-chamber legislature.

The Conservative Party, which alternated in power with the Liberals since the last century, saw its vote drop sharply. Together with independent conservatives, it will have 15 seats in the Senate, according to the projections.

The Conservatives had 41 seats in the old 114-member Senate, which was cut in size in a constitutional reform this year.

The conservative New Democratic Force, launched by former Bogota Mayor Andres Pastrana just a few months ago, will have 10 seats in the Senate, according to local radio projections.

M-19, a former guerrilla group which turned to peaceful politics after signing a peace accord with the government last year, is forecast to win nine seats.

The Liberals were forecast to win 78 seats in the 161-member House of Representatives, making them by far the biggest party.

The Liberals were also leading in the first direct polls to elect provincial governors, previously appointed by the president. They were ahead in 15 of the 27 provinces.

The elections were held under heavy guard, with 80,000 soldiers and police posted around the country after a spate of guerrilla attacks.

The leftist guerrillas caused some disruption to the elections, killing two policemen and a civilian in an ambush on a patrol carrying election results, setting up road blocks and stealing ballot boxes in one village.

The Liberals held an absolute majority in both houses of the old Congress, dissolved 2½ years early after a constitutional assembly decreed sweeping reforms to the legislature, often accused of corruption.

But the election result renewed the Liberals' faith in themselves after their vote dropped sharply in elections to the Constitutional Assembly last December.

Although M-19 won Senate seats for the first time, its vote dropped from the 27 per cent it won in December.

With the election outcome, Mr. Gaviria has succeeded in opening the political system to new forces. Mr. Gaviria promoted a constitutional reform this year aimed at broadening democracy.

Democratic Union leading in 1st Polish elections

WARSAW (AP)—A centrist faction of the splintered Solidarity union took an early lead Monday in Poland's first completely free parliamentary election in five decades. The former Communists showed unexpected strength, running a close second.

The Democratic Union, led by former Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, garnered 12.14 per cent, according to preliminary results released by the State Electoral Committee. They were followed closely by the former Communist renamed the Alliance of the Democratic Left, with 11.64 per cent, the committee said.

The results, announced at 1.15 p.m. (1215 GMT), were based on tallies from 64 per cent of Sunday's vote.

Votes were widely dispersed among the dozens of parties fielding candidates, according to unofficial exit polls. That outcome could lead to continued infighting in parliament, which has hobbled efforts to deal with Poland's economic woes.

Election projections predicted that as many as 19 parties would win seats in the new Sejm, or lower chamber.

Nonetheless, President Lech Walesa and other leaders hoped

the election would produce a strong ruling coalition. Mr. Mazowiecki said he was ready to start negotiations with other Solidarity-rooted parties.

The Catholic Electoral Action, supported by the powerful Roman Catholic Church, in third place with 9.04 per cent, according to the preliminary results.

Two factions of the splintered Solidarity union, the Liberal Democratic Congress of present Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki and the centre Citizens Alliance, had 7.14 and 8.48 per cent of the vote respectively.

Only 40 per cent of the Poland's 27.6 million voters walked through the season's first snow to cast ballots, a state polling agency said. But Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, who heads the European Parliament team to monitor the balloting, said the elections were "honest and free."

Though it led the Soviet Bloc's revolt against communism, Poland was the last country in the region to hold completely free parliamentary elections. In a 1989 election, two-thirds of the lower house's seats were reserved for Communists under the agreement that led to the end of Communist rule.

Violent crimes keep rising in the U.S., FBI reports

WASHINGTON (R)—Violent crimes in the United States went up by five per cent in the first half of the year, the FBI said Sunday, as a surge fuelled by more murders and drug-related incidents continued.

The U.S. law enforcement agency reported that the violent crime increase was led by a nine per cent jump in robberies, followed by a five per cent gain in murders and a four per cent rise in rapes.

Among the violent crimes, the smallest increase was posted for aggravated assaults, which were two per cent above the year-ago levels.

Since 1987, the violent crime rate has been going up by five per cent each year, except for 1990 when it soared by 10 per cent, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) figures.

The FBI said all serious crimes, which consist of both violent and

so-called property crimes, advanced two per cent in the first six months of the year.

Of the property crimes, burglaries, thefts and motor vehicle thefts all edged up by one per cent while the number of arsons showed no change.

Regionally, the crime rate went up four per cent in the Midwest, three per cent in the south and two per cent in the west. Only the northeastern states had a three per cent drop.

The crime rate in the nation's biggest cities, which have been hit hardest by drugs and violence, actually edged slightly lower from January through June, the FBI said.

But the decline was more than offset by higher crime rates in small towns, suburbs and rural areas across the nation.

The FBI statistics are compiled from crimes reported to the police around the country.

Burma gives U.N. investigator access to prison

BANGKOK (R)—Burma's military junta refused to let a U.N. human rights investigator visit detained Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, but let him go to a prison where many of her supporters are held, diplomats said Monday.

Japanese University Professor Yozo Yokota went to Burma last week to check on persistent reports of torture and other human rights abuses.

He was allowed to visit Insein Jail on the outskirts of Rangoon, where many political prisoners are held. U.N. investigator Sadeko Ogata, on a similar mission last year, had her request to see the jail turned down.

But Yokota was prevented from seeing Aung San Suu Kyi, the country's leading dissident who has been under house arrest since July 1989, the diplomats said.

Aung San Suu Kyi won this year's Nobel Peace Prize for standing up to what the Norwegian Nobel Committee called "a regime characterised by brutality."

Many of the prisoners at Insein are members of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), which won the May, 1990 general election by a landslide but has been barred from office by the junta.

Diplomats in Rangoon and Bangkok said it was not clear how much of Insein Jail Prof. Yokota was able to see, or if he was able to speak to political prisoners.

"But the fact he was allowed to visit at all shows a slightly more forthcoming attitude than last year," said one diplomat in Rangoon.

It showed the junta was worried about the possibility of a public investigation into its human rights record by the commission, the diplomats said.

Prof. Yokota's report remains confidential after he presents it to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Seoul wants to stay under U.S. nuclear protection

SEOUL (R)—North Korea will produce nuclear weapons by the mid-1990s, can export dozens of Scud missiles to the Middle East each year and has stockpiled chemical and biological weapons since the 1960s, the South Korean Defence Ministry says.

In a white paper Monday illustrating the high tension on the Korean peninsula, the ministry said South Korea must remain under the U.S. nuclear umbrella despite Washington's decision to remove ground-launched nuclear weapons.

"Such world military powers as the United States, the Soviet Union and China which are equipped with nuclear weapons have direct interests in the Korean peninsula. So we should continue to be under the protection of U.S. nuclear umbrella," it said.

The white paper said North Korea was expected to complete its third nuclear reactor in 1992 in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang. Its first reactor was set up in 1965

using Soviet technology and equipment.

"The North is also building a recycling plant in the same complex which will be able to extract plutonium on a mass scale," the document said. Plutonium is used in making nuclear weapons.

"The plant is expected to go into full operation from 1993, enabling the North to possess nuclear weapons in the middle of the 1990s," it said.

President George Bush announced last month that the United States was scrapping all land-based battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe and Asia, the type believed to be stationed in South Korea.

U.S. newspapers said later that Washington had decided to withdraw all its nuclear weapons from South Korea, including those dropped by air.

"North Korea's development of nuclear weapons is sure to break the mechanism of nuclear non-proliferation in the world," the white paper said.

"The North will not be able to avoid facing international sanctions if it refuses to open its nuclear installations to international inspections," it said.

The North has refused to allow international inspection until U.S. nuclear weapons are removed from South Korea. South Korea has said there can be no linkage between the two issues.

During last week's talks between prime ministers of the two Koreas, the North proposed a ban on the possession, use and transit of nuclear weapons on the peninsula.

But the South has rejected such sweeping denuclearisation because it believes acceptance would remove it from U.S. nuclear protection.

The white paper also said the North could produce about 100 Scud missiles a year and had exported them to the Middle East, including Iran.

"Furthermore, the North has deployed an advanced type of Scud missiles ranging 500

kilometres within 50 kilometres north of the border (between North and South)," it said.

"This poses a big security threat to the South, and the North is now developing missiles with longer ranges," it said.